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THE TIMES

Central America: The flaws in the Reagan policy, page 14

Government launches £210m rescue for ICL

The Government is to give aid worth £210m to International Computers, Britain's leading computer company. It has been influenced by the need to protect the national interest, not least its own dependence on ICL equipment, and defend what it considers to be one of the cornerstones of Britain's industrial future.

Priority to protect national interest

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The Government yesterday launched a £210m "lifeboat" to rescue International Computers (ICL), Britain's leading computer company.

Yesterday's politically embarrassing parliamentary statement by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, came after weeks of discussions between ICL, its bankers, and Whitehall.

The rescue will involve a large increase in government funding of the company's research and development programme, and guarantees to cover additional borrowings of as much as £200m. ICL is also expected to seek as much as £150m of additional bank facilities shortly.

The decision to support ICL, which the Government considers to be one of the most important parts of Britain's industrial future, is likely to be followed by other claims for support. British Telecom has been pressing for additional funds for its investment programme and last night called on the Government to be sympathetic to its case.

This intervention by the Government into industry has been heavily influenced by the need to protect the national interest, not least the Government's own dependence on ICL equipment. Twenty government departments, including defence and health and social security, use ICL equipment valued at more than £300m.

But ministers will be embarrassed by having to come to the company's aid, albeit indirectly, less than 15 months after the National Enterprise Board sold its 25 per cent stake in ICL on government orders realizing £38m for the Exchequer.

In his statement, Sir Keith said: "The Government has a special interest in ICL as a substantial customer for its products. To protect this special interest, we have given a positive response to a proposal that the Government should provide a limited, temporary measure of support for ICL."

The support package will be an increase in government funding of the company's research and development programme to between £10m and £12m from the present level of between £6m and £8m a year. Guarantees on further bank borrowing over the next two years up to £200m are being provided under Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act. ICL's bankers, which include Barclays and National Westminster, have agreed to continue their existing support totalling £70m.

Last year ICL's profits slumped by 46 per cent, and in the first three months of this financial year it recorded a loss of £20m. Mr Philip Chappell, the chairman, has said that it hopes to be nearly breaking even by the second half of the year.

The cash crisis has caused the company to lay off 3,700 employees, sell nearly 15 per cent of its property assets, and impose a pay freeze. At the end of last year, after months of wrangling, the company won a £36m contract to provide a new computer system for the Inland Revenue.

ICL accounts for between 29 and 35 per cent of the United Kingdom computer market. Speculation about the solution to the company's cash crisis has increased in recent weeks, and there have been repeated suggestions that foreign companies could be interested in taking over the company.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said last night: "ICL has been severely and sharply affected in its business for large computers and has suffered a significant fall in orders towards the end of last year. In this, ICL is not an exception."

Mr Baker said that the company had been forecasting a 20 per cent annual growth in its business and that the support package would provide the company with a "breathing space" to review its long-term business opportunities.

Its performance over the next two years would be closely monitored by Whitehall and management changes could not be ruled out.

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Senior tax officials under siege by pickets

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Pressure on the Inland Revenue mounted last night as bank union leaders called for the blacking of payments to the department, and the Civil Service unions advised traders that they need not pay tax during the dispute.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union is calling on 13 clearing banks not to handle credit transfer tax payments made to evade the enforced closure of the Inland Revenue's two computers at Shipley, West Yorkshire, and Cumberland, near Glasgow.

It is formally advising members in branches, at the banks' own computer centres, and at the automated clearing exchange at Edgware, London, shared by all the main English clearing banks, not to process payments destined for the Inland Revenue.

The Inland Revenue continued successfully to process tax cheques yesterday at its offices at Bush House in the Strand, central London, although a picket was reinforced by an early-morning demonstration of about a hundred civil servants and union leaders.

The unions, however, claimed an important moral victory when they found out where the cheques were being sorted after what Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, said had been a series of "Starsky and Hutch" pursuits of vans carrying the payment envelopes from post offices.

Picketing began at Lauriston House, in Edinburgh, and is expected to begin outside the other cheque sorting office, Liverpool Victoria House, at the Arndale Centre in Leeds, this morning.

The Council of Civil Service Unions said that its advice to businesses was that they "should hold on to their money until the strike is over and use it to improve their cash flow".

An advertisement taken by the unions in the *Financial Times* today says that the Government's contingency measures to collect revenue are giving only partial coverage and that there is at present no comprehensive system of recording who had and who had not paid PAYE.

It adds that the Customs and Excise have recognized that and the issuing of distress notices to defaulters had been suspended.

The Government confirmed that it had ceased to ask the courts for the notices.

Bank staff have been given six giro payment slip sorting codes that show payments are destined for accounts holding value-added tax, income tax, corporation tax, or national insurance payments.

The Inland Revenue and the customs reacted sharply last night to the unions' invitation to traders to withhold payments.

The customs said there was a legal obligation to pay value-added tax. The Inland Revenue said there was an obligation to pay tax if it is due "and if it can be paid".

Photograph by Brian Harris

Hope abandoned: Waves breaking on the rocks off Buckie, Grampian, whose citizens were told yesterday that hope had been abandoned for six local men lost on board the fishing vessel Celerity in stormy seas in the Pentland Firth. The loss brings to 22 the number of Buckie men who have died at sea in under two years. The Celerity, a 65ft wooden seine-netter, vanished early on Wednesday morning after losing contact with an accompanying fishing vessel in sleet and rain that blanketed visibility. Racing tides prevented the Celerity's companion from searching the area and sweeps by the RAF in the Pentland Firth failed to find any trace of the missing vessel. The loss means that six wives are widowed and 14 children are fatherless.

Town stunned, page 2

American wants to build three Titanics

By John Huxley

An American businessman has asked the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast if it could build three replicas of the ill-fated Titanic.

So far, the yard has received two letters from Mr James Beasley, chairman of Transit Risk, which specializes in transport, air and marine insurance, and is based in San Diego, California. A Harland offical said that Mr Beasley's general philosophy was that a new breed of liner was needed by people wishing to cross the Atlantic.

Harland and Wolff, now a loss-making yard, built the Titanic, which sank south of Newfoundland on April 14, 1912, with a loss of more than 1,500 people after striking an iceberg on her maiden voyage.

Titanic II, Titanic III and Titanic IV would cost $1,500m (about £660m). The Belfast shipyard was chosen, it seems, in the interests of authenticity.

The letters contained no direct proposals for Harland and Wolff, although it is understood that Mr Beasley has engaged a firm of naval architects, Rosenblatt of New York, to draw up detailed designs.

Yesterday Mr Beasley, who held press conferences in the United States earlier in the week, said that the ships would resemble the Titanic only on the outside, with modern interiors. The ships would cater for only 600 passengers, with prices from £1,000 a day.

Little is known in Britain of Transit Risk, but Mr Beasley said that the financial package was being put together by several large companies and banking organizations. Transit Risk was set up three years ago and created a subsidiary, the Titanic Passenger Steamship Line, two years ago.

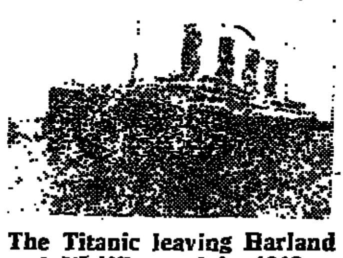
Mr Beasley said that the ships would pay for themselves within four years. He hoped to start a liner service from 1985.

Reports of the possible orders were greeted with scepticism—if not actual disbelief—in Belfast yesterday.

The state-owned yard employs about 7,000 workers whose spread of skills are different from those needed to build large, luxury liners. In recent years the company has been building bulk carriers, tankers and ferries, and has had £250m state aid since the 1960s.

Harland and Wolff believes that there was nothing wrong with the Titanic and that had it not struck an iceberg, it would have had a long and useful life. "We believe it would have passed all seaworthiness requirements up to the 1950s", an official said.

Several salvage attempts have failed. Mr Jack Grimm, a Texas oil millionaire, plans to resume his search off the Newfoundland coast this summer.



The Titanic leaving Harland and Wolff's yard in 1912.

Ex-diplomat was not blackmailed or pressurized, solicitor says

Sir Peter Hayman, the former diplomat who was involved in a child pornography investigation, was never blackmailed, approached or subjected to pressure, Sir David Napley, his solicitor, said in a statement last night.

Sir David said: "Sir Peter authorizes me to express, on his behalf, his deep regrets for the intense embarrassment and distress which has been caused to his family, friends and many others."

The statement attacked the naming of Sir Peter. "The irresponsible conduct which resulted in Sir Peter and his family being pilloried goes to the very root of the discretion to prosecutie", it said.

Sir David said that a factor which the Director of Public Prosecutions customarily took into account when deciding to prosecute was "whether the indirect punishment and hardship which a defendant may suffer is likely to be so disproportionate to the severity of the alleged offence ad to any penalty imposed by a court that it would be unjust to prosecute.

"As later events have clearly shown, this was overwhelmingly the situation in Sir Peter Hayman's case and manifestly justifies the director's decision."

"The written answer given today by the Attorney General renders clear that there has never been any allegation or indeed suggestion of any participation by Sir Peter Hayman in an act or conduct involving the corruption of young people or children.

"Indeed, if there had been, proceedings would rightly and inevitably have followed.

"The inquiry concerning the posting of material in sealed envlopes, which none but the sender and the resipient would see, was a separate and distinct police inquiry from that which subsequently led to the prosecution at the Central criminal Court of those charged with conspiracy to corrupt public morals.

"There was never any allegation or suggestion that Sir Peter Hayman was involved in that conspiracy.

"Indeed, inquiries show that the deciison was taken by the DPP in Sir Peter's case before the papers in the late rcase were received in his office. The only allegation against him conuerned the use of the post for sending material.

"He had no material with which the Paedophile Information Exchange was involved until well after the period when he retired from the Foreign Service, now nearly seven years ago, and it is significant that, as I am informed, the two persons involved with far more serious material, against whom charges were brought, were subjected by the magistrates to only a condition discharge."

MP not satisfied: Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Huddersfield, West, who has asked for the prosecution of Sir Peter Hayman for sending and receiving pornographic materiol through the post, said last night that he was not satisfied with the written answer given to him in the Commons by Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General (our Policital Correspondent writes).

"I still think there has been a cover up, and I am writing to the Attorney General asking him to resign", he said at a House of Commons press conference.

After dealing with the affair of the diplomat, Mr Dickens made a statement announcing that his marriage had broken up, and that his partner now was Mrs Maureen Knight, aged 43, who is divorced. She is proprietor of a nursing home in Tunbridge Wells.

She was present with him at the press conference, in tears, as he made the announcement. He said he would telephone his wife.

Reference was made to the former diplomat during the trial at the Central Criminal Court of Mr Tom O'Carroll, aged 35, chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange, to which Sir Peter, the former British High Commissioner in Canada, subscribed. Mr O'Carroll was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for conspiring to corrupt public morals.

In his parliamentary reply, Sir Michael Havers said that in 1978 a packet containing obscene literature and written material was found in a London bus. Subsequent police investigation revealed a correspondence of an obscene nature between Sir Peter Hayman and a number of other persons.

Altogether seven men and two women were named as possible defendants in the report submitted by the Metropolitan Police to Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions.

"The director advised against prosecuting any of the nine persons, either under Section 11 of the Post Office Act, 1953, or for any other offence", Sir Michael said.

"Among the considerations he took into account were the factors that the correspondence had been contained in sealed envelopes passing between adult individuals in a non-commercial context and that none of the material was unsolicited."

In a prepared statement, Mr Dickens said afterwards: "I am quite astounded and surprised. I think that if you have laws available to you for offences, however trivial, you should either enforce those laws or have them repealed.

"I was very surprised that the Attorney General made no reference to the contents of the explicit entries in the many volumes of diaries found at the premises of this British diplomat. Nor did he make any reference to the hoard of pornographic material found by police officers."

Full Commons reply, page 2
Sexual deviation, page 14
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Mr Geoffrey Dickens at the Commons yesterday with Mrs Maureen Knight, for whom, he said, he has left his wife.

Shortage of oxygen kills worker in spacecraft

From Michael Leapman
New York, March 19

A worker at the Kennedy space centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida, was asphyxiated today when he and five others walked into a compartment of the trouble-plagued space shuttle Columbia which had been filled with nitrogen. He was Mr John Bjornstad, aged 50. The other five workers were taken to hospital and one, Mr Forest Cole, is in a critical condition.

The accident occurred a few hours after a 33-hour rehearsal of the countdown to the launching had apparently been completed successfully.

Two hours after the countdown ended, the six men walked into a compartment of the craft to check the engines, unaware that all the oxygen had been pumped out and replaced by unbreathable nitrogen. Five of them collapsed and a sixth was able to leave on his feet with assistance. Three were released from hospital after treatment.

"The aft portion of the orbiter normally is filled with nitrogen to get the oxygen out", a spokesman said. "That is done to prevent fires in that area and to prevent anything explosive from seeping in."

He added: "There is no way you can see or smell that you are moving into an area that lacks oxygen . . . it is normally a closed area and you can only get into it by going through access panels."

The date of the initial 54-hour flight has not yet been fixed but, before today's accident, it was thought likely to be in the week of April 5.

Success for Soviet killer-satellite

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 19

The Soviet Union has successfully tested a "killer-satellite", according to military sources here. This is apparently the first time in an operational test of the satellites that the device has exploded close to its target, damaging it fatally.

The era of space war is thus upon us. The Americans have been deeply concerned at the Soviet advance in the field of anti-satellite warfare and have been conducting research into ways of protecting their own satellites and attacking Russia's.

Communications used in modern warfare, the control of inter-continental missiles and spying on enemy territory all depend on satellites. The ability to destroy the other side's satellites would be a formidable advantage to whoever possessed it.

The Soviet Union has apparently developed homing devices which can trace enemy satellites. The hunter explodes in the vicinity of its target, showering it with shrapnel and breaking up its cameras, aerials and other instruments, all of which hang around the satellite in a vulnerable array.

In a statement to Congress last month, General David Jones, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the Soviet Union was acquiring the ability to attack American satellites in low orbits, which would make most of its space systems "vulnerable to damage".

Our Defence Correspondent writes: The Soviet Union is reported to have carried out 17 tests of "killer-satellites" since 1968. Ten of those have been classified as "possibly successful" by Washington sources, because the interceptor passed within one kilometre of its target.

This is the first time, however, that the Russians have destroyed the target. On previous tests the "killer" has been allowed to pass well clear of the target before being detonated.

That is thought to have been because Soviet scientists have wanted to preserve their targets for as many tests as possible. Another reason might be that they have wanted to concentrate upon measuring the distance between the two satellites, by using data fed back to them from the target's computer. The latest test could therefore have more political than military significance.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 forbids the deployment and use of such weapons in space, but not experimental research.

'Détente dead' remark denied in Washington

The American State Department has repudiated an interview given by an official of the National Security Council who said that détente was dead. At the same time Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has reaffirmed his resolutely anti-Soviet policy by denouncing the Russian "objective" of striking at countries on or near the vital resource lines of the West Page 6

BNOC shares delay

Shares in the state-owned British National Oil Corporation are unlikely to go on sale in the present parliamentary session because of the time taken up by Canada's Constitution Bill. It is also thought that ministers are lukewarm, at least on bringing in private capital Page 17

New Front march ban

Despite a ban imposed by the Home Secretary on the National Front march in Leeds on Sunday, the organization said it would be demonstrating elsewhere, probably in Yorkshire. The ban came after talks between Leeds councillors and police Page 2

Mr Steel's hopes for electoral alliance

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, said that the latest poll confirmed that only an alliance of Social Democrats and Liberals could offer voters an alternative choice of government Page 2

Fisheries impasse

British sources in Brussels have dismissed as unacceptable a new proposal by the European Commission intended to enable Britain to lift its veto on an EEC-Canada fisheries agreement, which is of vital interest to West German fishermen Page 6

Mother wins fight

Mrs Anwar Ditta, who was born in Britain, has won a fight begun in 1973 to bring her three children to Britain from Pakistan. Privately arranged blood and tissue tests convinced the Home Office Page 3

Kenyan treason trial

Two Kenyans appeared in a Nairobi court charged with treason and misprision of treason respectively. One of them is accused of plotting to overthrow President Moi, and the other of knowing of the plot and failing to take action to avert it Page 7

Stricter code on car sales and servicing

A stricter code to cover the sale and servicing of new and secondhand cars was announced by the Director General of Fair Trading. It is supported by manufacturers and traders in view of Parliament's expressed concern at the present low standards, he said. The Consumers' Association gave it a qualified welcome Page 4

Polish-German talks

Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, has begun talks with Polish officials in Warsaw on financial aid and détente. He brought with him the promise of a DM 150m (£32.5m) credit. Mr Kánia, the Polish leader, who is in Budapest, is expected to return to Warsaw in time to join the talks Page 7

Africa: Lack of money and transport hinders efforts to prevent starvation in many lands 7

Jersey farm has foot and mouth

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed yesterday on a farm in Jersey. It was the first outbreak in the United Kingdom since 1968 and the nearest to the British mainland since the disease appeared in northern Normandy seven years ago.

The virus was of the type found on farms near the coast of Brittany early this month. The appearance of the disease on an island about 50 miles from the French coast illustrates how easily the virus can be wind-borne.

Jersey is only about a hundred miles from Dorset and farmers in southern England were alerted yesterday.

There are 8,000 cattle in Jersey, which had its last foot-and-mouth outbreak in 1958. Six cows and a bull from the infected farm were slaughtered on government orders yesterday and all transport of animals was banned.

The last British outbreak cost £27m in government compensation to farmers for more than 400,000 cattle destroyed. Some EEC countries control the disease by regular vaccinations.

Mr Steel elated by poll support for alliance

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The 46 per cent popular support given to a putative alliance between Social Democrats and Liberals in the latest Gallup poll, published in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, was hailed last night by Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, gether an alliance can offer the only an alliance could provide the breakthrough to forming a government.

His elation coincided with the news that another Labour MP, Mr Edward Lyons, is to join the Social Democrats.

Mr Steel said: "The blunt message is that separately we can offer two valuable and growing influences in the next House of Commons. But together on alliance can offer the people an alternative choice of government to the two stale options they have had for nearly forty years."

He will be sounding the same call tonight when he appears for the first time on the same platform with a Social Democrat MP. At the Welsh Liberal Party Conference at Colwyn Bay he will be joined by Mr Tom Ellis, MP for Wrexham, who resigned the Labour whip.

The Gallup Poll asked its sample of electors how they would vote if the alliance agreed that a candidate from only one of the parties stood in each constituency. The result, excluding non-preferences, was Social Democrat-Liberal Alliance, 46 per cent; Labour, 27; Conservative, 25; Other, 2.

As the table below shows, that was not quite the highest figure, after exclusions; but it was the first time since the alliance became a serious possibility that its poll exceeded the separate Liberal and Social Democrat vote.

Mr Steel's reason for emphasizing the polls' trend is not only to bring home the point that the Social Democrats alone cannot hope to make the breakthrough that has eluded the Liberals.

It is also to remind Liberals that the combined figures now being produced in opinion polls exceed the highest figures registered for Liberals alone, even at the height of their electoral successes.

Mr Steel is clearly delighted and determined to make as much as he can of the Social Democrats' launch next week.

Mr Lyons, Labour MP for Bradford, West, declining, as he put it, to remain in a party that represented "a threat to parliamentary democracy", gave his news last night.

He told his constituency party general management committee that he would resign the Labour whip on Monday.

Mr Lyons, the thirteenth Labour MP recruited to the Social Democrats, secured the largest swing to Labour of any candidate in the 1979 election. He increased his majority by nearly 3,000.

Mrs Barbara Holmes, secretary of his constituency party, also resigned from the party last night, and it is expected that the chairman will resign and join the Social Democrats.

The terms in which Mr Lyons announced his defection are extremely damaging to Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party.

Mr Foot had sought at a private meeting on Wednesday to dissuade Mr Lyons, but to no avail.

Mr Lyons's statement, prepared for delivery last night, made clear that he has no confidence in a Labour counter-attack on the left at the national nevel.

Chief executive: The Social Democrats are to advertise for a full-time chief executive, starting at a salary of £20,000 a year, it was learnt last night.

Liberal alliance, page 14

In the following table, in order to produce accurate comparisons, the results have been adjusted to exclude non-preferences. The figures refer to voting intentions at a general election.

Poll	The Sun AS Jan 26	Daily Mail NOP Jan 29	The Guardian Marplan Jan 29	Daily Mail NOP Feb 1	The Times ORAC Feb 9	Daily Telegraph Gallup Feb 19	The Sunday Times MORI March 8	Daily Telegraph Gallup March 19
Liberals alone	16	not asked	13	16	24	20	17	18
Separate: Liberals	not asked	not asked	11	10	18	14½	13	13½
Social Dem	not asked	29	27	26	23	26	23	31
Liberal-Social Dem Alliance	51	39	not asked	41	44	44	30*	46

*Question asked suggested Liberal standing down.

ORAC, Opinion Research and Communication; NOP, National Opinion Poll; MORI, Market Opinion Research International; AS, Audience Selection.

Six London councillors join Social Democrats

By a Staff Reporter

Six Labour councillors in the London Borough of Islington have joined the Council for Social Democracy.

Led by Mr James Evans, the Mayor, they resigned the Labour whip after a meeting on Wednesday.

The Social Democrats on Islington council, who intend to fight next year's municipal elections, will meanwhile form the main opposition to the ruling Labour group.

One of the former Labour councillors, Mr Patrick Sheeran, has also announced that he will be standing as a Social Democrat for Islington, North, in the Greater London Council elections in May.

Two other Social Democrat candidates for the GLC elections were also announced yesterday. Mr Michael Burton, a barrister, will contest Putney and the Rev David Mason, a former Labour councillor for North Ealing, will stand in a seat yet to be decided.

Mr Clive Killick, a leading Conservative on Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council, has joined the Social Democrats. He was expelled from the Conservative group when he voted against it at a meeting to fixe the rates.

Ex-chairman quits: Mr Christopher Cousins, chairman of South Dorset Labour Party until last year, has joined the Social Democrats, only two weeks after being accepted as a potential Labour parliamentary candidate (our Weymouth correspondent writes).

Fabians' ban: The Fabian Society is seeking to change its rules so that only those eligible to join the Labour Party could be full members.

The change, on which the society's 3,600 members will vote next month, would mean that members of the new social democratic party could not be full members. They could be associate members without voting rights.

The society's executive has accepted the resignations from the executive of four members of the Council for Social Democracy, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr John Cartwright, Mr John Roper and Mr David Sainsbury.

Mr David Lipsey, a journalist on *The Sunday Times*, replaces Mrs Williams as chairman of the society.

New Front venue after ban on march

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

Although Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has imposed a ban on the National Front march at Leeds on Sunday and all other political marches in the city for the next month, the organization is likely to mount a demonstration in another part of Yorkshire. Bradford was being talked of last night.

The Anti-Nazi League, who had planned a counter-demonstration, were attempting last night to discover the new venue.

The National Front march was ostensibly planned to call a halt to manufactured imports, but by coincidence a section of the nuclear campaign, Youth against Missiles, and a public meeting of the Leeds Scrap the Act campaign against racist laws were scheduled for Sunday.

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, applied to the Home Secretary for the ban after consulting Leeds city councillors. Mr Andrew Brons, the National Front chairman, called the Leeds ban "outrageous". He said it was obviously a political ban because, he undertood, objections to the march came from local politicians, not the police.

Political marches in Leicester have been banned for a month from tomorrow, as have marches in London.

Mr Rodgers hits back at 'abuse' by Labour leader

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Answering criticism of Labour MPs who had joined the social democratic group, Mr William Rodgers, one of their number, last night invited Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, to debate the issue on its merits "and not abuse those who remain loyal to the principles and values for which the Labour Party once stood".

Speaking to trade unionists at Westminster, Mr Rodgers commented on the demand made by Mr Foot for the 13 MPs to resign and fight their seats again under their new colours.

He retorted: "If anyone should resign, it is not the social democrats but those who remain in a party that is significantly different from two years ago.

"The real challenge today is to those still in the party who sail in a different ship, under a different captain, to a different destination. They are the ones who fly false colours.

Mr Rodgers said that in 1979 the Labour Party was led by a man deeply committed to the proper defence of Britain through membership of Nato. oday it was led by someone who was ambivelant about defence questions.

Miss Jean Batten, aged 71 (left), who set flying records before the war, sitting at the controls of a Britannia Airways airliner which she named after herself at Luton airport yesterday. With her is First Officer Suzanne Eastbury.

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Direct labour forces to bid for contracts

By Christpher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Controversial new rules to ensure that local authority direct labour organizations (DLOs) give value for money were published yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

The provisions come into force on April 1 and the Government is concerned that they should increase efficiency, competitiveness ond accountability in council organizations which provide new building and other works.

A circular to local authorities explains that under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act, 1980, direct labour organizations must bid for a substantial proportion of their work against competitive tenders from the private sector, must earn a prescribed rate of return on capital, and must publish the results

The target rate of return on capital has been set at 5 per cent by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, who also has the power to close down direct labour organizations which consistently miss their target.

Regulations laid before Parliament list the contracts which must go to competitive tender as: general highway works costing more than £100,000, sewerage works exceeding £50,000, but for other new works costing more than £50,000 or less only a third must go to competitive tender, and maintenance work over £10,000.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment, said that the new legislation would carry out government pledges to place effective controls over council direct labour forces.

"In the past these organizations have been shielded from public gaze. This will not be so in the future. Ratepayers will be able to see whether they are obtaining value for money."

"We should now have a worthwhile basis for the future operation of DLOs broadly acceptable to both local authorities and the construction industry. There will be a significant change in approach, an increased cost-consciousness and recognition of the contribution which can be made by the private sector", Mr Finsberg said.

A seminar on direct labour, organized by the Institution of Municipal Engineers yesterday, heard complaints about the new system, showing that local authorities would have a more difficult task than the private contractor.

Big cut in system for training teachers

By Our Education Correspondent

A contraction of the teacher-training system is inevitable given government predictions that the demand for newly trained teachers will fall to about one third of its present level in three years.

That was agreed at a meeting yesterday of the teacher training subcommittee of the Government's advisory committee on the supply and education of teachers (Acset). However, the subcommittee was not asked to consider, so expressed no view on, the critical question of closures of teacher-tarining colleges and departments of education.

Government forecasts show that while the teacher-training system can produce 17,000 teachers evry year, the demand is expected to fall from 12,500 this year to about 4,500 in 1983-84.

A Department of Education and Science paper emphasizes, however, that "decisions about the future size and structure of the training system cannot be based solely on indications of the prospective demand for new teachers in the short to medium terms".

In brief

Dead policeman had 20 wounds

Police Sergeant Michael Hawcroft, who died last week, was found to have 10 stab wounds in the front of his body and 10 in the back, an inquest at Bradford, West Yorkshire, was told yesterday.

Mr James Turnbull, the coroner, adjourned the inquest. Professor David Gee, the pathologist who carried out a post-mortem examination, said death was due to shock and haemorrhage. A youth aged 16 has been accused of murder.

MP to stand down

Mr William Wilson, Labour MP for Coventry, South-east, announced today that he will not stand at the next general election. Mr Wilson, aged 67, has spent 17 years in the Commons.

General election result: W. Wilson (Lab), 19,583; T. Sawdon (C), 12,097; M. Brazor (L), 2,984; R. Clarke (Nat Front), 513; A. Wilkins (WRP), 126; Lab majority: 7,486.

Van loses shell

The entire body shell of a van hired by Mr Raymond West, of Weston super Mare, Avon, lifted off as he was cruising at 40 mph on the M5 at Dunball, Somerset, yesterday. Two lanes of the motorway were closed for two hours while the debris was cleared.

Rosie Swale remand

Rosie Swale, the round-the-world yachtswoman, appeared in Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with soliciting after being arrested in Curzon Street, Mayfair. Mrs Swales, aged 31, of Clynderwen, Dyfed, pleaded not guilty and was remanded on unconditional bail until July 15.

280 bacon pigs die

More than 280 bacon pigs died in a fire at a barn on Beckfield Farm, Sandon, near Stevenage, Hertfordshire, yesterday. The damage was estimated at £45,000.

Magnate's divorce

Sir Maxwell Joseph, aged 70, the hotel magnate, was granted a divorce in the London Divorce Court yesterday. He has lived apart from his wife since 1953. They married in 1932.

A dog's revenge

When a dog was knocked down at a road junction in Sheffield the car stopped and the dog ran back, jumped and bit the passenger. The dog was unhurt.

Sea tragedy stuns town that has lost 22 men

From Ronald Faux
Buckie

The Rev Alexander Baptist minister in Bu Grampian, had the grim yesterday of informing families of six men lost the fishing vessel Cel that there was no hop finding them alive and the search for them had abandoned.

The small, compact t with its grey rooftops and harbour wall overlooking Moray Firth, had waited first light for news as aircraft combed the Pen Firth for any signs of the ing boat. There was none.

The tragedy brought to 2 number of Buckie men who died at sea in less than years. The chilling num brought home the conseque of the tragedy to the close munity; 14 children orpha six wives widowed.

Mrs Mary Grant, aged married six months ago expecting her first baby, her husband, William, father and an uncle when Celerity was overwhelmed.

"Everyone is stunned distressed. A fishing munity realizes that it can pect anything but when dies such as this happe touches everyone", Mr told *The Times*.

"There are very few pe in Buckie who have not a relative, friend or som they have known over the few years. There is not anyone can do, it is a gerous industry and then nothing else here except tradition of fishing."

About fifty boats are r tered at Buckie and ope from ports on the east coas along the west coast of land. The harbour has re slips and a yard, where Celerity, a wooden 65 seine-netter, was built s years ago.

"Fishing is what Bu depends on. There is a sa that if a living does not c through the harbour mouth will not come at all", a skip said. Things had been recently. He wondered whe the men had been pushin bit too hard.

Mrs Jean Hillier organize rest and prayer room for bereaved. She understood stunned despair of bere ment; her son, Russell, was on the Bounteous in Jan last year. The fishermen th selves took the loss with a s acceptance.

Some were preparing return to sea if the wea gave them a chance: st boats with strong, confi names, would return wit hesitation to a sea that o sionally overwhelmed them.

Mr Kenneth Ritchie, aged was on board the Crystal sailing half a mile behind Celerity through the Pentl Firth in the early morn darkness on Wednesday.

"We were following her cause Sandy Bruce, the sl per, knew the waters re well. No one knew them ter. The weather was p and the wind and tide w pushing us along. We w waiting to see which chan he was going to take.

"I heard the Celerity on radio. Sandy said he was go down to make a cup of coff Then there was a bad sq of rain and sleet that blan out visibility. We lost sight her lights and she went fr the radio and the radar scre We never saw her again.

"We could not stop search, the tide was sweepi us along and eventually we on the radio. What happen I do not know."

Attorney General's full answer to question on Sir Peter Hayman

The following is the text of attorney generals answer to a parliamentary question by Mr Geoffrey Dickens:

In 1978 a packet containing obscene literature and written material was found in a London bus. The subsequent police investigation revealed a correspondence of an obscene nature between Sir Peter Hayman and a number of other persons. Altogether a total of seven men and two women were named as possible defendants in the report submitted by the Mertopolitan Police to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Director advised against prosecuting any of the nine persons either under section 11 of the Post Office Act 1953, or for any other offence. Among the considerations he took into account were the factors that the correspondence had been contained in sealed envelopes passing between adult individuals in a non-commercial context and that none of the material was unsolicited.

Subsequently the Metropolitan Police submitted a further report which revealed that one of the nine, not Sir Peter Hayman, was also carrying on a correspondence with a tenth person. The police investigation showed that the two shared an obsession about the systematic killing by sexual torture of young people and children.

In view of the extreme nature of the material they had sent each other the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to prosecute them for conspiring to contravene section 11 of the 1953 Act. There is no evidence that Sir Peter Hayman has ever sent or received material of this kind through the post.

It has been suggested that Sir Peter Hayman was considered as a possible defendant following the police investigation into the conduct of the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE), which led to the recent trial at the Central Criminal Court for conspiracy to corrupt police morals. That prosecution was against persons alleged to have been involved in the management or organization of PIE.

Although Sir Peter Hayman had subscribed to PIE, that is not an offence and there is no evidence that he was ever involved in the management. At the recent trial, while there were general references to members of PIE (including, though not by name, Sir Peter Hayman), there was no reference to any material produced by him or found in his possession.

I am in agreement with the Director of Public Prosecutions advice not to prosecute Sir Peter Hayman and the other persons with whom he had carried on an obscene correspondence.

The Director of Public Prosecutions and I remain determined that, where the evidence justifies it, prosecutions will be brought in cases involving sexual acts with children or offences under the Protection of Children Act, 1978 (indecent photographs of children).

North Sea oil millionaire becomes the eighth proprietor of 'The Spectator'

By Ian Bradley

The Spectator has been bought by Mr Algy Cluff, aged 40, founder of Cluff Oil and a millionaire.

He has wanted to buy the 153-year-old literary and political weekly for the past three years and succeeds another wealthy proprietor, Mr Henry Keswick, chairman of Matheson and Company.

Mr Cluff is the eighth proprietor since *The Spectator* was launched but the fourth in the past 27 years. He has said that Mr Alexander Chancellor will continue as editor and there will be no changes in the magazine's contents or style.

Both sides in the sale refused to disclose the purchase price.

Mr Cluff is not in the conventional mould of the oil magnate. He was educated at Stowe and was an officer in the Grenadier Guards and in the Guards Independent Parachute Company, where he saw service in West Africa, Cyprus and Malaysia, before going into business.

He joined Ionian Bank Ltd in 1964 and became involved in the launching of oil exploration in the North Sea. In 1971 he founded Cluff Oil to apply for licences in new North Sea fields.

Mr Cluff: "An excellent read".

The company, of which he is chairman and chief executive, is now the largest independent operator in the North Sea and also has interests in the Irish Sea, the Gulf, Australia, China and South America. His company's assets are valued at £33m.

The profits have enabled Mr Cluff to buy a 31-acre private island in Poole harbour and a 3,500-acre farm near Salisbury, Zimbabwe.

Mr Cluff stood as a Conservative candidate for Manchester, Ardwick, in 1966, but says that he no longer has political ambitions. He is a supporter of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and believes that businessmen should have a greater say in the running of the country.

He was delighted when Mr Keswick, who is an old friend, told him two weeks ago that he wanted to sell *The Spectator*.

Mr Cluff said yeserday: "It has always been very much part of my life. It is an excellent read, it is a radical magazine and I think it is rather a romantic notion to own something like that."

He said that he would not be making any changes in the staffing and did not want to influence editorial policy. "I work 18 hours a day on this oil company, so it would be difficult for me to have very much influence, anyway." But he would like to see the magazine's circulation increase from its present 17,000 to about 25,000,

Banks' computer staff to strike

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Bank staff at Lloyds' and Barclays' cheque clearing computer centres will stage separate strikes next week after union rejection of a "final" 10 per cent pay offer.

The two official 24-hour strikes called yesterday by the executive of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union were said last night to be the first phase of action which will be intensified unless the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers improves its offer.

About 1,000 clerical and computer staff at the Lloyds centre at Samson House, London, will strike from 10 pm on Monday. About 230 employees will stop work from 4 pm on Thursday at Barclays' two centres, of Gloucester and Wythenshawe, Cheshire.

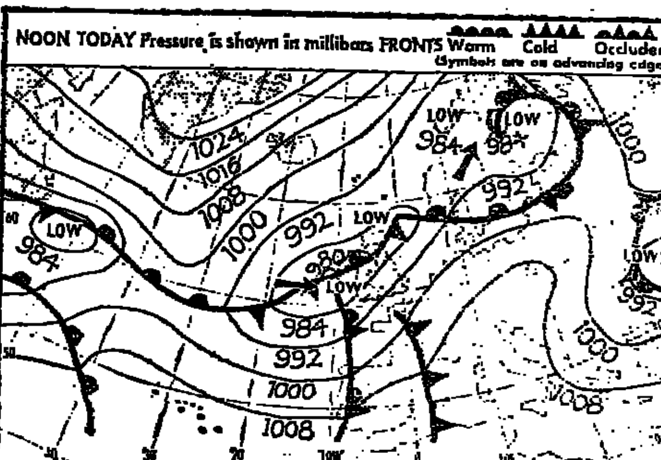
They will disrupt internal bank business heavily reliant on computer services, and are expected to close most automated bank cashpoints for the period of the strike.

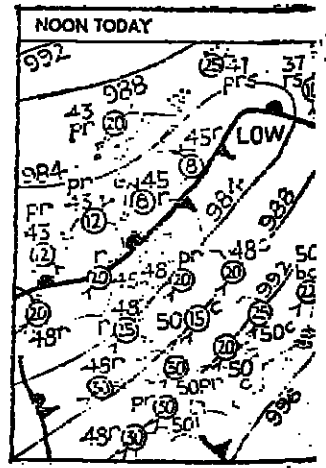
BIFU, which represents 70,000 clerical staff in the present negotiations, is to ballot its members over the next fortnight on whether they are prepared to take more widespread action, including working to rule and overtime bans.

The other main union, the Clearing Bank Union, not affiliated to the TUC, is to ballot its members on the offer, which was raised from 9.25 per cent. The CBU has 50,000 members in the banks.

More widespread action by BIFU's staff would almost certainly involve most of the main clearing banks.

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 6.04 am — Sun sets: 6.14 pm
Moon sets: 6.24 am — Moon rises: 6.04 pm

Full Moon: 3.22 pm.

Lighting up: 6.44 pm to 5.32 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.47 am, 7m; 2.09 pm, 7.2m. Avonmouth, 7.18 am, 13.1m; 7.40 pm, 13.1m. Dover, 11.06 am, 6.3m; 11.19 pm, 6.5m. Hull, 6.22 am, 7m; 6.28 pm, 7.4m. Liverpool, 11.19 am, 9.1m; 11.38 pm, 9m. 1ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808ft.

Pressure will be low over the British Isles, with troughs of low pressure moving across N areas.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE central S, central N, E England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Mostly rather cloudy; scattered light showers; wind SW, fresh; maximum temp 10° to 12°C (50° to 54°F).

SW, NW, NE England, Wales, Lake District: Occasional rain and mostly cloudy; wind SW, fresh; maximum temp 9° to 10°C (48° to 54°F).

Isle of Man, Borders, SW Scotland: Occasional rain and mostly cloudy; wind SW, or variable, light; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Occasional rain, sleet or snow in places at first, cloudy; wind mainly variable, light; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Outbreaks of rain or snow moving N, some heavy, becoming generally dull; wind NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

N Ireland: Occasional showers, rather cloudy; wind mainly variable, light; max temp 7° to 8°C (45° to 46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Unsettled, showers or longer periods of rain in most places, windy; temp mostly near normal.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel: wind SW fresh or strong, occasionally gale; sea rough or very rough.

Iish Sea: Wind variable, mainly SW, moderate or fresh; sea moderate.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity 6 pm, 73 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm 0.5hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm 1,002.2 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

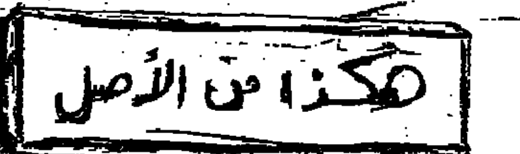
WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	19	66	Cardiff	c	10	50	Jersey	r	8	46	New York	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	s	18	64	Cologne	c	9	48	L Palmas	f	21	70	Nice	s	14	57
Amstrdm	f	[illegible]	48	Copenhgn	f	6	43	Lisbon	c	13	55	Oslo	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	f	15	[illegible]	Dublin	r	9	48	Locarno	s	13	55	Paris	c	8	46
Barcelona	s	14	57	Edinburgh	f	8	46	London	c	10	50	Reykjavik	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	s	28	82	Florence	f	15	59	Luxembourg	c	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rome	s	14	57
Belfast	sl	2	36	Funchal	f	17	66	Madrid	f	11	52	Rotterdam	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Berlin	r	8	46	Geneva	s	5	41	Majorca	f	15	[illegible]	Stockholm	sn	0	32
Biarritz	f	15	59	Gibraltar	r	16	61	Malaga	f	17	63	Tel Aviv	c	24	75
Birmnghm	c	[illegible]	48	Guernsey	c	8	[illegible]	Manchester	r	[illegible]	[illegible]	Venice	s	15	[illegible]
Bristol	c	9	48	Helsinki	sn	-2	28	Moscow	s	0	32	Vienna	c	7	45
Brussels	c	8	46	Innsbruck	s	5	41	Munich	f	6	43	Warsaw	c	2	35
Budapest	c	8	46	Istanbul	c	12	54	Naples	c	11	52	Zurich	s	7	45

Overseas selling prices Australia [illegible]; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canaries Pes [illegible]; Cyprus 450 mils; Denmark Dkr [illegible]; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk [illegible]; France Frs [illegible]; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr [illegible]; Holland Gl 2.50; Iran [illegible]; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic [illegible]; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.325; Kuwait KD 0.350; Lebanon LL [illegible]; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc [illegible]; Malta [illegible]; Morocco Dh 5.00; Norway Kr [illegible]; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rs [illegible]; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR [illegible]; Singapore [illegible]; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din 450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 10.

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Mother wins fight to reunite family

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Privately arranged blood tests which confirmed that a woman born in Britain but of Pakistani descent was related to her children have persuaded the Home Office to let them be reunited in Britain. The case has raised serious doubts about the fairness of procedures being used to screen would-be entrants to Britain.

It coincides with an outcry about Filipinos being expelled from Britain because they failed to mention they had children at home when they applied for work permits. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour spokesman on home affairs, is to head a deputation of trade union leaders to ask Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, to stop the expulsions.

The blood test was given to Mrs Anwar Ditta and her husband, who live in Rochdale, and her three children in Pakistan. She has been trying since 1973 to bring them to Britain.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, ended the ban after new evidence produced in the Granada television programme, *World in Action*. A doctor was taken to Pakistan to obtain blood samples from the children.

Mrs Ditta was born in Britain and at the age of nine was sent back to Pakistan by her parents, where she married and had three children, Kamran, now aged 11, Imran, nine, and Salma, eight. She followed her husband back to Britain expecting that her children would be able to join her, but the Home Office refused.

Last year the appeal tribunal rejected her plea.

Two Filipino hotel workers, Mr and Mrs Arcadio Albesa, are being treated as illegal entrants because they failed to say they had a son when seeking to work in Britain eight years ago. Now aged 17, he lives in the Philippines and his parents applied for him to join them in Britain.

That led to a Home Office decision to expel them on Monday. Mr Philip Pearson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who is responsible for its members in the hotel industry in central London, said attempts were being made to delay the Albesas' expulsion until the delegation had seen Mr Whitelaw on March 30.

The Home Office said last night that in 80 of 198 cases of domestic and hospital workers, mainly from the Philippines, people had been removed from Britain.

Case fails: Mrs Laura Fernandes, aged 52, a Kenyan Asian facing deportation to India, where she says she has no family or friends, failed yesterday in the House of Lords to have her expulsion delayed pending consideration of her case by the European Commission of Human Rights (the Press Association reports).

Lord Scarman said it was extremely worrying that a woman of Mrs Fernandes's age should be going somewhere where she had no relatives or roots, but that was not something that the Law Lords could take into account.

"But I sincerely hope the Home Secretary will", he added.



Mrs Anwar Ditta, jubilant yesterday at the news that her children can join her.

Dispute over auction charge may be settled

By Frances Gibb

The 12 leading art and antiques dealers who are due to bring a High Court action in October against Christie's and Sotheby's over the controversial buyer's premium are considering a compromise formula which could settle the long-running feud out of court.

The action, which is being brought over the 10 per cent commission the auction houses charge on top of the hammer price, is the climax of an acrimonious dispute that goes back to 1975, when the premium was introduced.

It has wide implications because not only Christie's and Sotheby's, but also Phillips and Bonham's in London and many provincial auction houses now make the charge.

But in the past few days both sides have been considering a formula that might achieve a settlement, which most dealers and auctioneers want.

Under it, the 10 per cent buyer's charge would remain but there would be an extra 5 per cent surcharge for all buyers, except the trade and British museums and galleries.

Private buyers would therefore pay 5 per cent more than they do now, unless they bid through a dealer and negotiate a smaller commission rate. Foreign buyers, including museums and galleries, would also pay 5 per cent more, which would put British museums at an advantage when competing for heritage treasures.

The two-tier system would benefit dealers and auctioneers, but the final details have yet to be agreed, as there are some on both sides who are determined to see the issue settled by the court.

A museum expert said: "Both sides have everything to gain by this formula. The only losers could be the private buyer in this country and private and institutional purchasers overseas, who either bid themselves or ask the auctioneers to do so on their behalf. They will have to pay the extra 5 per cent."

But those private buyers could mitigate that imposition by negotiating for a dealer to bid for them at a nominal charge. "In addition, the solution would go a long way to counter the conflict which can arise when auctioneers are asked to act for both seller and buyer."

If agreed, the deal will not only avert what promised to be a lengthy legal battle, possibly up to the House of Lords and costing thousands of pounds. It will also remove a bone of contention that has threatened to cause much damage to the British art market.

'Outsider' may be new university head

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

London University is running into difficulties over the choice of its next vice-chancellor. The favourite is an "outsider", the vice-chancellor of another eminent university, though it is not yet known whether he would accept the post.

The new university statutes, approved by the Queen in Council last December, stipulate that the vice-chancellor "will normally be chosen from among members of the university".

However, the 14-member committee set up in January to recommend a candidate to succeed Lord Annan next September, has moved round to the view that in the present atmosphere of bitter tensions and rivalries within the university, arising in part from economic pressures and the Flowers and Swinnerton-Dyer rationalization exercises, it might be preferable to appoint someone from outside.

He must, however, be the right man, and only one person from outside is still considered a possibility.

Others, such as Sir Hermann Bondi, chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, who is a former chief government scientist, and Sir Alec Merrison, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, were considered but ruled themselves out early in the selection process.

The appointments committee, chaired by Lord Scarman, was expected to settle on a candidate at what was to be its final meeting last week, so that it could make a recommendation to the university senate when it meets next Wednesday; everyone is conscious of the pressure of time.

However, it failed to reach agreement, and another meeting has been arranged for March 30. That means the appointment is unlikely to be made before next term.

Some committee members still favour the appointment of an internal candidate. Two are under consideration.

They are: Lord Flowers, aged 46, Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, who is highly respected but also excites antagonism, not least because of his committee's controversial report on London's medical schools (a secret survey of the heads of London colleges and institutes showed them equally divided for and against his appointment as vice-chancellor); and Professor Randolph Quirk, aged 60, of University College London who was runner-up to Lord Annan three years ago.

It is still possible that either of those two may be selected if the external choice falls through. Or if there was a difficulty over the external candidate being released from his present post in time to take up a new appointment in September, a caretaker vice-chancellor might be appointed for one year.

UK will sign European pact on data privacy

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is committed in principle to bringing in legislation to protect citizens against misuse of personal information stored on computers, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, stated yesterday.

In a long-awaited written reply in answer to a parliamentary question from Mr K. Harvey Proctor, Conservative MP for Basildon, he said such legislation would be brought in "when an opportunity offers".

The legislation would enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on data protection, he said. In the meantime Britain would take the first step of signing the convention, as had been done by seven other European countries.

But the Government will not be setting up a data protection authority, a statutory body to oversee the use of computer data, as proposed by the committee under Sir Norman Lindop in 1978, Mr Whitelaw said.

The basis of the Government's proposals would be a public register on which all users of systems storing personal information would be required to register. That would provide some access to information by those on which it is held.

Registration will require a description of the system and its proposes, and pubication of a code of practice followed by the user. There will also be provision for adequate security arrangements. The legislation sanctions to ensure compliance.

The statement had been awaited not only by computer users and the industry, who feared loss of trade without protective legislation on the lines of European trading partners, but also by the medical profession and civil libertarians.

The British Medical Association yesterday welcomed the moves to safeguard personal information, but was disappointed that no date had been set for introducing legislation and that there were no plans for a data protection authority.

The National Council for Civil Liberties, which has been closely involved with the Home Office on data protection proposals, welcomed the commitment for legislation but deplored the failure to promise it for the next session of Parliament.

"Mere signing of the European convention without ratification is not enough to reassure the international community about Britain's willingness to abide by privacy standards", Miss Patricia Hewitt, the general secretary, said.

No talks on Ulster's role, Dublin says

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Irish Republic has conceded that its confidential series of talks with the British Government do not include discussion of Northern Ireland's constitutional position.

After three months of innuendo and contradiction by Irish government sources the record was put straight by Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, in a Dublin television interview.

But he fuelled further speculation by declaring without elaboration that the aim of the talks was to proceed towards joint partnership in Northern Ireland, a relationship between the province and the republic and between Ireland and Britain. That appeared to raise the issue once more of power-sharing in Ulster.

Mr Frank Cluskey, leader of the Labour Party, demanded in the Dail yesterday a new statement from the Irish Government on the Anglo-Irish talks. In view of Mr Lenihan's remarks, but was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

Nevertheless, there was pleasure last night among both the opposition parties at what they saw as the possible joint consideration of the continuous question of partnership or power-sharing in Northern Ireland.

Mr Lenihan confirmed what the British Government has been saying all along, that the joint studies that have been under way since January are concerned primarily with new institutional structures, not constitutional change.

His statement will have two immediate effects. The bizarre "Carson trail" rallies by the Rev Ian Paisley must now lose some of their steam. Secondly, the ruling Fianna Fail party is in no position to make inflated claims about the nature of the joint talks when it calls the general election, probably to be held in the summer.

Ex-reporter 'distrusted the police'

From Michael Horsnell
Middlesbrough

Mr Julian Mounter, a former reporter on *The Times*, decided not to give the police evidence of police corruption in the middle of an investigation by the newspaper because he was afraid it would be swept under the carpet by investigating officers, he told Teesside Crown Court at Middlesbrough yesterday.

He was being cross-examined by John Symonds, a former Metropolitan Police detective sergeant, who has been accused of corruptly accepting a total of £150 from a criminal.

Mr Mounter, now an executive producer at Thames Television, said tape recordings had been made of conversations between Mr Symonds and Mr Michael Perry, the former criminal.

He told the court: "At this time there had been allegations against police officers at Scotland Yard which in the broad opinion of many journalists had not been properly pursued. It was felt that things got swept under the carpet, and we were anxious that that did not happen."

Mr Symonds, aged 45, has pleaded not guilty to three charges of corruptly accepting money in return for assisting Mr Perry over an arrest, and is conducting his own defence. The Crown alleges that he fled the country shortly before his trial at the Central Criminal Court and returned only last May.

Asked by Mr Symonds if he had carried out the investigation to further his career and boost the newspaper's circulation, Mr Mounter said: "*The Times* was at the time trying to increase its circulation, but to suggest we were trying to pervert the course of justice is scurrilous."

Mr Mounter denied that money allegedly paid by Mr Perry to the detective had been supplied either by himself or by Mr Gareth Lloyd, another former reporter on *The Times*.

He added that Mr Perry's payments by instalments to Mr Symonds were not arranged to facilitate extra meetings between the two which could be tape-recorded for further evidence of corruption.

Questioned about the tape-recordings, Mr Mounter said: "These tapes showed you were inciting people to crime and that you were a corrupt officer. The whole point of the exercise was catching you in the act of taking money from a criminal. These tapes were showing horrendous things."

The hearing continues today.

BL shop steward jailed for parts theft plot

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Brian Harris, aged 43, of Birmingham, a former Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward at British Leyland's Longbridge factory, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. He admitted conspiring to steal parts from BL and theft.

Joseph Keogh, aged 24, of ing to handle parts and the theft of a Mini car. He was sentenced to 12 months' jail suspended for two years, fined £250 and ordered to pay £222 compensation.

Paul Morris, aged 21, of Birmingham, admitted handling stolen parts and the theft of a Mini car. He was sentenced to 12 months' suspended for two years, six months suspended for a year, and ordered to pay £222 compensation.

Joseph Addison and Daniel Sheehan were found not guilty.

Three acquitted before riot jury retire for second night

From Lucy Hodges
Bristol

The jury in the Bristol riot trial yesterday acquitted three men charged with riotous assembly after the disturbance in the St Pauls area on April 2 last. They spent a second night in an hotel and will consider their verdict on the other five defendants today.

The first acquittal came in the morning after the jury had spent the whole of Wednesday reaching a decision. The next two acquittals came last night after they had sat for a further six hours.

Originally, 16 people were charged with riotous assembly, but eight of these cases were dismissed earlier for lack of evidence.

Clinton Brown, aged 24, of Halston Drive, Bristol, was the first to be acquitted yesterday. He emerged from Bristol Crown Court to be greeted by his white girl friend and daughter aged two. He went to a public house for a celebratory glass of champagne.

The trial, he said, had put a great strain on his family life. "I knew I was not guilty, so right was on my side."

The case against Mr Brown was based on the evidence of Police Constable Hunt, who said he saw him run forward and throw a bottle. Mr Brown said he was only looking on and had done nothing.

In his summing up Mr Justice Stocker told the jury to exercise great care when considering the case against Mr Brown.

The other two defendants who were acquitted last night were Clive Edwards, of Bartgill Close, Bristol, and Clifton Mighty, of Campbell Street, Bristol, both aged 17.

The case against Mr Edwards also rested on the evidence of PC Hunt, who said he saw him throw a stone, later described as a brick, at a policeman.

Mr Edwards, who gave evidence on oath, said the police had made a deliberate mistake in arresting him. They had been chasing another man, who got away, so they had arrested him instead. He denied throwing anything.

Mr Mighty said he had been only a spectator and had taken no part in the disturbances.

Two policemen said they had seen him from a hundred yards away and that he had thrown a stone. His counsel questioned whether someone could be identified at that distance.

NHS sells hospital to private sector group

By Nicholas Timmins

The National Health Service has sold a complete hospital to the private sector as a going concern in what is thought to be the first deal of its kind.

On April 1 a consortium of 42 general practitioners and local consultants will pay £225,000 to take over the 36-bed Bromhead Nursing Home, Lincoln. The hospital, built in 1866 as a nurses' school, will be run as a non-profit-making trust.

It now houses 21 of the 34 health service pay beds in the north Lincolnshire health district and has space for 15 ordinary NHS beds, which have been reduced over the years to five operational beds. The NHS charges £63 a day for the pay beds.

Mr Barry Muir, sector administrator in the district, said yesterday that the benefits for the NHS were the capital sum raised and a marginal saving in revenue costs of about £50,000.

He said the health authority had been considering the matter for some time, and recent guidance from the Department of Health encouraging cooperation with the private sector had appeared to support the policy. The loss of the five NHS beds, which were rarely used, would not be significant.

A member of the doctors' consortium said it would have cost about £2.25m to build a new 30-bed hospital. The doctors were putting up £150,000 between them on seven-year covenants, additional money was to be raised, and the provident associations were supporting the development, he said.

The hospital intended to charge similar rates to those for NHS pay beds, and it had been a condition of the sale that the new arrangement should be non-profit-making. The nurses and other staff at the hospital have taken other jobs locally in the health service and others have been offered posts by the new owners.

Mr Heseltine aims to finish resurvey of historic buildings by 1984

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A bus shelter in Essex and a public house in Birmingham are among 25 more buildings of the interwar period which Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has listed as of historic or architectural interest.

Mr Heseltine also told a conference in London yesterday, organized by the British Tourist Authority, that he intended to speed the national resurvey of buildings with the aim of completing it by 1984.

A modest increase in his department's resources would be needed, but he intended to draw much more extensively than at present on the assistance of county councils. He expected to use private consultants in setting up and monitoring the fieldwork and providing advice.

Although he could not hold out any prospect of relief from value-added tax on repairs to historic buildings, a point of "irreconcilable conflict" between his department and the Treasury, the Government could still be proud of its achievements in the heritage field, he said.

While his department was being asked to cut overall expenditure sharply, it was increasing resources for historic buildings grants in England by 11 per cent in real terms in the next financial year.

In response to a recommendation in a recent report by the tourist authority and the Historic Buildings Council, he had decided to make low-interest loans available through the council as an alternative to grants. Such loans were not intended to supplant grants, but would have the effect of increasing resources by "recycling" part of the money available.

The latest batch of listed interwar buildings, the third to be announced since last October, brings the total to 74. Among the best-known are Golders Green Crematorium, north-west London; the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool; the Queens Hotel, Leeds and the Council House, Bristol.

"The listing of relatively recent buildings will never be uncontroversial," Mr Heseltine told the conference. "But I believe we have a duty to protect major buildings by important architects, and representing major schools of architecture, so that future generations can make their own decisions."

Priest jailed for leading raid on Irish bank

A Roman Catholic priest was jailed for 12 years yesterday for leading a £46,000 armed bank raid in the Irish Republic.

Vincent Forde, aged 36, was convicted at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin of robbing the Bank of Ireland, in Ballina, co. Mayo, in June, 1979, and forging documents to hire a car used in the five-man gang's escape.

He had denied the charges, but the three judges accepted evidence from bank staff who said the priest was the gang's leader. Father Forde once worked among the poor of New York, which was said to have sparked off his involvement with militant republican politics.

Insurance companies set up ombudsman for customers

By Margaret Stone

Nine large insurance companies yesterday set up an independent ombudsman to look after the interests of policyholders with unresolved grievances against a member company.

Mr James Haswell, a solicitor with wide experience in private practice and in the Army Legal Corps, particularly army legal aid, has been appointed ombudsman and will be ready to hear complaints from March 30.

In the face of opposition from the insurance companies, the plan for an Insurance Ombudsman Bureau was devised by three leading insurers, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal Insurance. They have put up £100,000 between them to start the scheme.

A six-member council of the bureau is to act as an intermediary between Mr Haswell and the insurance companies and pay his salary. The chairman is Mrs Joan Macintosh, who is vice-chairman of the National Consumer Council.

Other council members are from consumer organizations such as the Consumers' Association, citizens' advice bureaux and the National Federation of Consumers Groups, with two insurance company representatives.

The creation of an insurance ombudsman, even though he will not be able to intervene on behalf of policy-holders from non-member companies or adjudicate on life insurance claims, was welcomed yesterday in many quarters.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said: "I have criticized the general stance adopted by the insurance industry towards customer complaints.

"The launch of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau will change this situation for the policyholders of its member companies, as it offers them a free and impartial service comparable with arbitration."

Companies which are members of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau are British Reserve Insurance, Ennia Insurance, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, Hodge General, Legal and General, Nalgo Insurance, Phoenix Assurance and Royal Insurance.

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Unemployed youths will be allowed to serve with British Army of the Rhine

By Mark Jackson
of *The Times Educational Supplement*

Jobless teenage volunteers will be able to serve with the Army in Germany under the military training scheme for the unemployed that the Government is preparing to announce. They will be trained as infantrymen and join the garrison regiments defending Western Europe.

Ministers have accepted that the best way the Services can help the young male unemployed is to offer them the chance to enlist as soldiers training and serving with regular recruits. The only difference will be that they will be paid much less and be free to leave at any time during their six months' engagement.

The plan is set out in a confidential paper from the Department of Employment to the Manpower Services Commission. It says that the Ministry of Defence is ready to offer a special short-service engagement to a first batch this year of 1,000 youths aged 17 to 19 who have been on the unemployment register for more than six weeks.

Up to 750 will receive general military training at infantry depots and then be posted to units at home or in the British Army of the Rhine. The rest will get some kind of technical training, more than half as combat engineers or vehicle mechanics.

The Army is insisting on applying its normal selection criteria and will prefer 17-year-olds. They will get the youth opportunities programme scale allowance of £23.50 a week, compared with the £72.50 paid to regular recruits, but will not be charged for their food.

The youngsters will be able to leave freely, but during their service will be subject to the Army Act, 1955. They could, it appears, be made to complete any prison sentences imposed by courts martial for offences committed while they are with the colours.

The Department of Employment is asking the Manpower Services Commission whether it is willing either to include the scheme in its youth opportunities programme for the young unemployed or to pay for it as a separate operation.

Commission officials have advised the commission's special programmes board that "there is no possibility that the scheme could be funded within the framework of the youth opportunities programme".

Lord Gowrie, the Minister of State responsible for youth employment matters, said in a television interview on Tuesday that "military training would not be appropriate under the youth opportunities programme".

Surgeon is given leave to seek High Court order

Mr Paul Vickers, a surgeon, and Miss Pamela Collison, a political researcher, jointly accused of murdering Mr Vicker's wife, were given leave yesterday to seek a High Court order reimposing reporting restriction at committal proceedings.

Proceedings before Gosforth magistrates, who decided on Monday that an order on October 15 last year lifting reporting restrictions should apply to the criminal proceedings, were adjourned pending the outcome of the High Court case.

US may borrow Concorde for research

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Talks between British Aerospace and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) may lead to the Americans borrowing a Concorde to aid research into a second-generation supersonic airliner.

The Concorde to be used is a production development aircraft based at British Aerospace's development aircraft based at British Aerospace's factory at Filton, Bristol, which makes occasional flights in support of engineering development work for the Concorde fleets of British Airways and Air France.

A Nasa delegation has visited Bristol to discuss plans for the use of the aircraft, number 202. Its plans have been broadly welcomed by British Aerospace, which believes that any future advanced supersonic transport can only be developed in a partnership of Britain and France, with the Americans. Britain and France have the development and operational knowledge and the United States has the finance and the apparent will to develop a successor to Concorde for the 1990s.

Nasa and the three largest United States manufacturers of civil aircraft, Boeing, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, all have small teams of engineers working on advanced supersonic airliner projects with speeds of about 1,350 mph, at which Concorde flies.

Each of the American studies envisages a far larger and more financially economic aircraft than Concorde, which can carry up to 100 passengers. Most are loking at an aircraft which would seat 250, with engines than those powering Concorde.

The far between British Aerospace and Nasa, Concorde 202 would be used as a flying test bed for experiments which could be incorporated into a new advanced supersonic transport.

Most of the experimental flying would take place in Britain sources available here.

Civil Service in turmoil as it faces a long and bruising fight for pay peace with Government

By David Felton and Frances Williams

When Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and minister responsible for the Civil Service, flies to Zimbabwe today he will leave behind a service in unparalleled turmoil.

His absence during his visit to discuss British aid to the country he helped to bring into being will have no effect on attempts being made to effect a reconciliation between the Government and its 540,000 white collar civil servants.

The annual pay bill for that group is £4,500m and a 1 per cent pay increase would cost about £45m.

But those attempts, which are centred on producing a new system of bargaining to replace the pay research system in its present form are likely to be long and protracted. In the meantime the unions' damaging campaign of industrial action on the controversy over whether civil servants deserve an increase of more than the 7 per cent on offer, will continue.

In previous years, except during periods of incomes policies, the starting point for fixing civil servants' pay increases has been the Pay Research Unit, which was set up in 1956 on the recommendation of the report of the Priestley royal commission.

The commission said the overriding aim of the Civil Service pay system should be the "maintenance of a Civil Service recognized as efficient and staffed by members whose remuneration and conditions of service are thought to be fair both by themselves and the community they serve".

The Pay Research Unit, headed by Mr Vernon Morgan, has a staff of about 70 who, during the year, get in touch with as many as 320 companies and organizations to ascertain salary levels for jobs which can be compared with similar posts in the Civil Service.

The unit takes into account levels of responsibility, numbers of staff supervised, working conditions and other factors which in the end enable unit staff to put a value on the comparable job.

For each Civil Service grade the unit looks at about 55 outside jobs. The Civil Service rates are set roughly in the middle of the range so that at any time some employers will be paying more and others less than civil servants receive.

The random sample shown in the accompanying table is necessarily superficial and may be unrepresentative, but the results do not support the notion that civil servants are grossly overpaid.

Of six grades for which we could get equivalents outside, five were better paid in private firms, by about 11 per cent on average, even without fringe benefits being taken into account.

Most of the salary levels in the private sector were fixed in last year's pay round and are now being renegotiated.

The private sector workers got a wide selection of fringe benefits, some worth a great deal. For example, a copy typist working for a big oil company in London gets £1.50 a day meal allowance, worth about £330 a year.

Bank workers, after a few years' service, can be eligible for 5 per cent house loans, which compares with the present mortgage interest rate of 13 per cent. A company car could be worth up to £2,000 a year.

The main "perk" for a civil servant is obviously the index-linked pension, although some staff working in headquarters buildings also have access to subsidized canteen meals. Our figures include London weighting where applicable for both the Civil Service and the private sector.

In the Civil Service the payment for working in central London is £1,016 a year, compared with £950 for a copy typist working for an oil company and £1,261 for a bank cashier.

The London weighting for civil servants is based on the extra costs of housing and travel in the capital. The outer London allowance is £424 a year.

In general, holiday entitlements are broadly similar to those in outside industry, with variations from grade to grade. The nine unions maintain that if holidays and working hours are taken together, civil servants are slightly worse off than their outside counterparts, but that is disputed by the Government, which says their conditions are marginally more favourable.

The principle of job security is a vexed issue for the Government and the unions. The Prime Minister asked the Scott inquiry into index-linking of pensions in the public sector, to assess job security, but the inquiry said that it was unable to make a recommendation.

It pointed to large job losses in the public sector,

Since the Conservative Government came to power in May, 1979, the Civil Service has been reduced by 5 per cent, which is less than half the drop of nearly 12 per cent in employment in manufacturing industry.

Comparison of Civil Service pay with similar private sector jobs

CIVIL SERVICE			PRIVATE SECTOR		
Job	Salary*	Perks (see key)	Job	Salary*	Perks
Senior Principal Scientific Officer: head of a government laboratory	£14,807	P	Head of laboratory in leading pharmaceutical company	£14,875	C, M, B
Senior Executive Officer: manager of medium-sized DHSS local office	£9,550	P	Manager, small branch of clearing bank	£11,000 (approx)	L
Professional and Technology Officer: technician or diagnostician in Ministry of Defence establishment	£5,900	P	Instrument technician with leading chemical company	£5,605	M, B
Executive Officer Grade 4: computer programmer	£5,260	P, M	Computer programmer, in large manufacturing company	£5,750	M, I, D
Clerical Officer working in Department of Employment headquarters in London	£4,584	P, M	Cashier in clearing bank, central London branch	£4,955	L
Copy typist: Ministry of Defence headquarters, London	£4,399	P, M	Copy typist in head office of large oil company in central London	£5,369	M, L

* mid-point of salary scale.

Key to perks: B, bonus scheme; C, company car; D, discount scheme; I, subsidized medical insurance; L, subsidized loans or mortgages; M, subsidized meals; P, index-linked pension.

Anger over treatment by press and public

Mr Stuart King is aged 48, married, with four children aged five and under and has been a civil servant for 12 years. He works in a social security benefits office in north London and as his pay slip shows takes home each month £346.75 or just over £86 a week.

During his working day Mr King, who has an Oxford honours degree, deals with people making claims for benefits. "Sometimes it can be pretty unpleasant", he says. "People working in offices like this and in the Inland Revenue are likely to be attacked by the public and sometimes they spit at you."

Mr King, was was an infantry officer during his national service, joined Shell as a marketing executive after he left the Army but was made redundant. He is paid the maximum for his grade as a clerical officer.

"I am probably too highly qualified for this job, but with unemployment as it is, there are plenty of people coming in who would normally not have considered joining the Civil Service", he says.

"The problem is we are working with an antiquated system, on the whole with far too much work to do and the public quite naturally are screaming at us for the money they think they deserve."

Mr King says civil servants are angry at the treatment they receive from the Government and the press. "As people maintaining the essential fabric of the state just as much as the armed forces and the police, we are surely entitled to the respect of the nation and Government and to a living wage."

He blames the Government for its irresponsibility in suspending the principle of comparability, which he said was designed to keep "the Civil Service out of political strife".

"We are therefore reluctantly compelled to demonstrate our industrial muscle in order to have any chance of a just settlement. Any long-term damage to the Civil Service, the morale, status or industrial relations procedures rests fairly and squarely with the present Administration and nobody else."

Mr King welcomes the work being done by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, who was asked by the Prime Minister to investigate ways of reducing waste in the Civil Service.

"I think Derek Rayner is doing a very good job through bringing a commercial approach to the Civil Service, because there is a lot of waste. But the country should decide how big a Civil Service it can afford and then pay the rate for the job. Getting people on the cheap is very counter-productive", Mr King commented.

Unit studies firms for salary equivalents

Armed with exhaustive Civil Service job descriptions, the Pay Research Unit scours private companies for precise salary equivalents.

Last year nearly 320 concerns, including Barclays Bank and George Wimpey, provided comprehensive information on every aspect of pay, including bonuses, fringe benefits, pension arrangements, promotion prospects, gradings, hours of work and holidays, as well as salaries.

The raw data, compiled over many months, is then handed over to the Civil Service Department, which represents the management side, and the nine Civil Service unions, only to be subjected to the complex adjustmetnt procedure summarized in the accompanying table.

First, the maximum of the scale is adjusted to ensure that it is one attainable by all staff and not just by a small proportion. The deduction of London weighting gives the "national basic salary".

To the basic salary is added any productivity or profit-sharing bonuses, often 3 to 4 per cent of salary for private office workers, and pension contributions, also about 4 per cent on average, are deducted.

Settlement date for the Civil Service is April 1 each year. But the pay investigations by the Pay Research Unit relate to salaries fixed the previous year.

As private companies will be settling at higher rates in the current year, last year's salaries are uprated by a proportion of last year's inflation rate based on the period between the companies' settlement date and April 1. That prevents civil servants from slipping up to two years behind private sector pay.

Fringe benefits which can be valued, such as cars, subsidized meals and discounts, are then added in to give the "true money rate". That can be worth from 3 per cent of salary for the equivalent of an executive officer to 15 per cent for a job comparable to an assistant secretary.

The Government Actuary, using information on private pension scheme benefits gathered by the Pay Research Unit, calculates a standard percentage deduction from true money rate for the extra benefits of index-linked pensions for civil servants.

Last year the deduction was 3.8 per cent, within Scott's estimate of between 3 and 8½ per cent. This year's figure could be higher, perhaps about 5 per cent.

Finally, differences in working hours and holidays are taken into account. The Civil Service Department and the unions then haggle over the weight to be placed on such things as job security and fringe benefits such as cheap loans (which not everyone has

How Civil Service pay comparisons are made

Example: Private post comparable to senior executive officer

Step 1: Pay Research Unit combs outside firms for jobs comparable to those done by civil servants and provides detailed information on their salary scales, pension schemes, bonuses, fringe benefits, etc, which is passed to the Civil Service Department and the unions.	Typical maximum 196[illegible] salary: £9,994
Step 2: Salary scale is adjusted to ensure maximum is attainable by all staff and London weighting is removed, to give basic salary.	−£111 −£97 =£9,786
Step 3: To basic salary is added bonuses plus quantifiable fringe benefits (car, free meals) less pension contributions, to give total earnings.	+£527 −£403 =£9,910
Step 4: Total earnings are uprated by a proportion of previous year's inflation rate (eg 15% in 1980) to allow for fact that private companies will be settling in current year at levels higher then those found by Pay Research Unit.	+£1,194 =£11,104
Step 5: Quantifiable fringe benefits are added to give true money rate.	+£580 =£11,684
Step 6: The government Actuary uses information on private pension benefits collected by Pay Research Unit to calculate standard percentage deduction for extra benefits of Civil Service index-linked pensions (3.8% in 1980).	−£444 =£11,240
Step 7: True money rates are adjusted for differences in working hours and holidays.	Probably balance out =£11,240
Step 8: Unions and CSD haggle over unquantifiable factors: job security for civil servants versus cheap loans and mortgages for some outside jobs.	

Index-linking is focus of criticism

Much public attention and criticism of civil servants is directed against the index-linked pensions they enjoy.

It was estimated by the inquiry into index-linking of public service pensions, headed by Sir Bernard Scott, that the cost of retirement benefits in the Civil Service would be £775m in the current year. That figure includes benefits for industrial civil servants.

The inquiry, set up by the Prime Minister, who had voiced her distaste for the principle of index-linking, was asked to consider whether civil servants, with six million other public sector workers who have inflation-proofed pensions, paid enough for the benefits.

Civil servants last year had a total deduction of 7.9 per cent from salaries to take account of pension benefits. That comprised 3.8 per cent, judged by the Government Actuary to be the worth of index-linking and pensions payable at 60, and a 4.1 per cent deduction to allow for superannuation contributions made by private sector workers with whose pay they were being compared.

The Scott inquiry decided that that deduction was probably at the bottom end of an acceptable range of deductions, which the inquiry team suggested should be between 7 and 13½ per cent of pensionable pay.

The inquiry pointed out that civil servants' effective contribution to their pensions, at about 8 per cent, was twice the average direct contribution made by employees in comparable private sector jobs.

Index-linking of public service pensions was introduced by the Heath government in 1972.

The Government picked up a suggestion made during the previous Labour Administration that pensions should be index-linked. Because the earnings index was surging ahead at the time. Conservative ministers decided that pension increases should be tied to the retail price index.

The average pension for a retired civil servant who has stopped work at 60 is now £1,768 a year, against £515 a year when index-linking was introduced. Such an increase of

The average weekly pension for widows and dependants of civil servants is £13 and the average overall pension is £29 a week. The Civil Service Department estimates that nearly 55 per cent of Civil Service pensioners receive less than £20 a week and less than 10 per cent receive more than £70 a week.

Stricter code agreed on car sales, servicing and repairs

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

A revised and stricter code of practice on the sale, servicing and repair of new and second-hand cars was announced yesterday. It is the result of 18 months of discussions between the Office of Fair Trading and the motor trade associations.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said the code was significantly more demanding than the original code, which came into operation five years ago, but it needed the right level of support from the trade.

"The trade has been heavily criticized in recent months; as recently as Monday of this week serious concern was expressed on both sides of the House of Commons about the poor level of service many people receive.

"I shall want to see compelling evidence in the next monitoring report that trading standards have been raised in all areas covered by the code. I am convinced that the trade associations intend to work to make the code bite. I very much hope it does."

The code is supported by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which represents car manufacturers, and the Motor Agents' Association and Scottish Motor Trade Association, whose members account for 85 per cent of cars sold through garages.

The most important new provisions relate to used-car sales and to repairs and servicing, the two areas which, Mr Borrie said, were causing the greatest concern.

On used cars the new code obliges garages to disclose any defects on an approved checklist, which must be prominently displayed in the car and given to the customer before any sale.

The revised code also contains tighter provisions against "clocking" (turning back mileometers). Car milage readings must be verified by a signed statement from the previous owner, and if that is not possible the customer must be told.

On repairs and servicing, the code emphasizes the legal obligation on garages to supply parts of merchantable quality and requires that repairs must be guaranteed against failure due to workmanship for a specific milage or time period.

Estimates must be given for important servicing and repair work, with firm quotations wherever possible. Garages must make it clear whether servicing is being carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended servicing schedule.

The main change in the code on new cars is that a copy of the checklist relating to the predelivery inspection carried out by the dealer must be given to the customer.

Mr Alan Dix, director general of the Motor Agents' Association, said: "We are totally committed to this code. Any member not complying will be required to appear before our disciplinary committee and may be expelled. There were five expulsions last year and the figure this year will probably be higher."

Mr Dix said copies of the code were being sent to all member garages, with instructions that staff dealing directly with the public should be made aware of it, and £100,000 would be spent on a national advertising campaign.

The Consumers' Association, which has accused garages of "appalling incompetence and dishonesty", said the revised code was fine as far as it went. But standards of servicing would begin to improve only when there was an effective system of monitoring and spot checks.

"Without an initiative of this kind, consumer organizations will have to reflect the despair and irritation of their members by pressing for a statutory remedy, perhaps ultimately the power to order a persistently defaulting garage to cease trading", the association added.

Motoring, page 12

More kidney transplants taking place

By a Staff Reporter

Kidney transplant operations are increasing again after the controversy over brain-death stirred up by last year's Panorama television programme.

Figures from the United Kingdom transplant centre show that after dropping by more than half to under 50 transplants in each four weeks in the period after the transmission last October, the number increasing, although it is not yet back to the peak reached last year of 103 transplants in a four-week span.

In the most recently completed four-week period, 84 transplants were performed. Figures for recent weeks suggest the next four-weekly total will also be in the high seventies or eighties. The waiting list for transplants has, however, soared, from 1,426 just before the television programme to 1,976.

Dr Benjamin Bradley, medical director of the transplant service, said the rise in the number of transplants was probably because of restored confidence among both the public and the doctors in the criteria by which brain-stem death is established.

The potential for transplants is, however, far greater than the numbers performed. About 2,600 people a year die in road accidents or from strokes, making a potential pool of more than 5,000 kidneys.

The £50 note which the Bank of England will issue today.

White Paper guide to leaner Civil Service

By Peter Hennessy

Whitehall is putting the finishing touches to a White Paper on efficiency in government which will serve as a charter and a guide to the Prime Minister's new-style, leaner, more economy-minded, and less interventionist Civil Service.

Hints about its contents were contained in two earlier White Papers, the Treasury's document on public spending published last week and the Government's reply last month to the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service about the future of the Civil Service Department.

The efficiency White Paper is due to be published before Easter, but the irony in producing such a document when large sections of the Civil Service are on strike is not lost on ministers, and its appearance may be delayed if industrial action is still in progress next month.

It is being prepared by the department's functions and programmes division, led by Mr Sandy Russell, an under-secretary, with close attention from the department's ministerial team of Lord Soames, Lord President, and Mr Barney Hayhoe, its Minister of State.

Their paper will bring together many of the changes that have resulted from Civil Service Department initiatives since the Conservatives took power and the suggestions that have sprung from a document entitled *The Conventions of Government*, presented to the Cabinet last spring by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's advistr on the elimination of waste.

Known as the "lasting reforms", Sir Derek's proposals include a requirement that in future the occupants of most senior Civil Service posts should have personal experience of managing manpower and money as well as the traditional skills of policy-making.

The White Paper will emphasize the need for ministers and top civil servants to feel direct responsibility for management of their department and its human and financial resources. Under Sir Derek's supervision a scheme for measuring the running costs of the government machine, department by department in considerable detail, has been devised and is now in operation as a central tool of management.

The cost of central government has risen since the Thatcher Administration came to power in May, 1979, from £6,800m a year to £8,300m, an increase of 22 per cent.

The White Paper will emphasize the importance of Lord Soames's manpower cuts in reducing that figure. The target is a Civil Service of 630,000 by April, 1984. The Government inherited 73[illegible] officials, and the present total is 695,100.

Other economy exercises which should feature in the White Paper are its "chain-of-command review", designed to slim the Civil Service hierarchy and reduce duplication of effort, and several lower level cost-saving studies of certain Whitehall services such as messengers and cleaners.

The White Paper will lay down economy objectives which ministries will be obliged to meet and against which their performance can be judged by ministers and Parliament. An allied aim is for government bureaucracy to interfere less in the life of the citizens.

Other factors whose importance is emphasized in implementing the new style of administration are the simplification of office procedures by the introduction of new technology and the reviews through Whitehall conducted under Sir Derek's guidance such as the recently completed investigation of the Government's statistical services and the recently commissioned exercises on complicated forms and the level of support staff in research and development establishments.

Dog show judge cleared of corruption

Mr Leslie Atkinson, an international dog show judge and breeder, was cleared of alleged corruption yesterday by order of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Atkinson, aged 67, who has been a dog show judge for 36 years, pleaded not guilty at Stafford Crown Court to a charge alleging that he corruptly agreed to accept £15 to act in a biased manner at a North of England dog show in 1978.

He was one of four men charged with corruption after a Sunday newspaper claimed they accepted bribes. Two were cleared in court cases and the DPP decided not to proceed against the other man.

Woman licensee wins fight to stay on after 60

Mrs Gladys McNulty, aged 62, who is tenant of the Lord Napier public house in Hulme, Manchester, yesterday won a test case to prove a brewery had broken the Sex Discrimination Act when it told her she should retire at 60.

Judge Basil Gerrard at Manchester County Court ruled that the brewery, Greenall Whitley's, was wrong to try to force her to retire at the age of 60, when men could stay until 65.

The judge said that because Mrs McNulty and other tenants should be classed as self-employed, it contravened the Act. The brewery could either allow her to keep the licence or risk paying damages.

Steel workers fail in High Court to save 1,500 jobs

Workers at the British Steel Corporation's tinplate division in South Wales failed yesterday in the High Court to save 1,500 jobs.

They had asked Mr Justice Mais, sitting in London, to outlaw the corporation's plans to run down the Velindre plant, near Swansea because, they said, they had not been consulted, as required by the terms of the Iron and Steel Act, 1975.

But the judge ruled that the corporation's rescue plan, initiated by its new chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, which proposed the run-down, did not fall within the Act.

Under the plan the corporation would reduce the workforce at Velindre from 2,245 to 674. It had agreed not to issue redundancy notices until the legal issue had been decided.

After the judgment trade unionists representing the men at the plant said they would consider an appeal.

Giving judgment, Mr Justice Mais said the duty to consult required under the Act referred to reviews of organizational structure undertaken by the corporation. The MacGregor plan was not such a review. It was designed to persuade the Government to bolster up the industry with more money in order that it might survive.

It was significant that a review within the Act was carried out with consultation only three months before the plan was announced in December, 1980.

There was nothing in the Act to prevent the corporation from reducing its workforce, cutting working hours or putting into operation plans on running its business.

The judge said he sympathized with the Velindre workers, whose plant had consistently proved to be an efficient concern. The survival plan meant a slimming down of the tinplate division, and the division's other two plants, at Trostre and Ebbw Vale, had advantages over Velindre.

Progress towards cheaper way of making interferon

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Coventry

A security system of a type more usual for safeguarding precious stones has been introduced at Warwick University for storing the latest discovery in the department of biological sciences.

It consists of a safe containing a refrigerator. Only three people have the key and combination. It houses the strains of two new types of bacterium that synthesize interferon.

The cultures are divided into two colonies of bacteria. One makes alpha-interferon and the other beta-interferon.

The success in transferring two human genes into two separate bacteria for making two of the three types of interferon (there is a third variety known as the gamma) was disclosed yesterday at the university by Professor Derek Burke.

He said the process offered a potential route to the cheap manufacture of the substance.

The cost of interferon made by available methods, which provide only small amounts of the compound, has been cut from about £30 a dose five years ago to about £12 by improvements in processes. But there are inherent limitations to the amount that can be made.

The new bacterial systems have an important commercial aspect because they may make volume production possible. That is what makes security important.

The achievement of inserting two different human interferon genes into bacteria has come after four years of research by the team at Warwick. The work started with material used by the Wellcome Foundation for making interferon by one of the conventional routes, using human tissue cells.

After the substance was obtained the residue was taken to Warwick, where the research team removed the DNA from the cells to obtain the genes responsible for interferon and transferred them to the bacteria.

Mancunians to lobby MPs on city's crisis

From John Chartres
Manchester

A train has been hired from British Rail to take 300 influential Manchester citizens to London on Tuesday for a mass lobby of Parliament on the city's economic plight.

The party will include representatives from such diverse bodies as the Catholic Welfare Societies of the diocese of Salford and the Manchester branch of the Communist Party; the Manchester Chamber of Trade and the Friends of the Earth; as well as Mr James Hetherington, the town clerk.

The Dean of Manchester Cathedral, the Very Rev Alfred Jowett, intends to hand in at 10 Downing Street a bound copy of written submissions about the city's difficulties.

Some delegates will hold talks in the morning with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, while others will meet MPs.

The main burden of the complaint against the Government is that the city's loss of assisted-area status next year will aggravate its serious unemployment rate, now 14 per cent, and that the block-grant system for rates is bringing hardship to industrial cities.

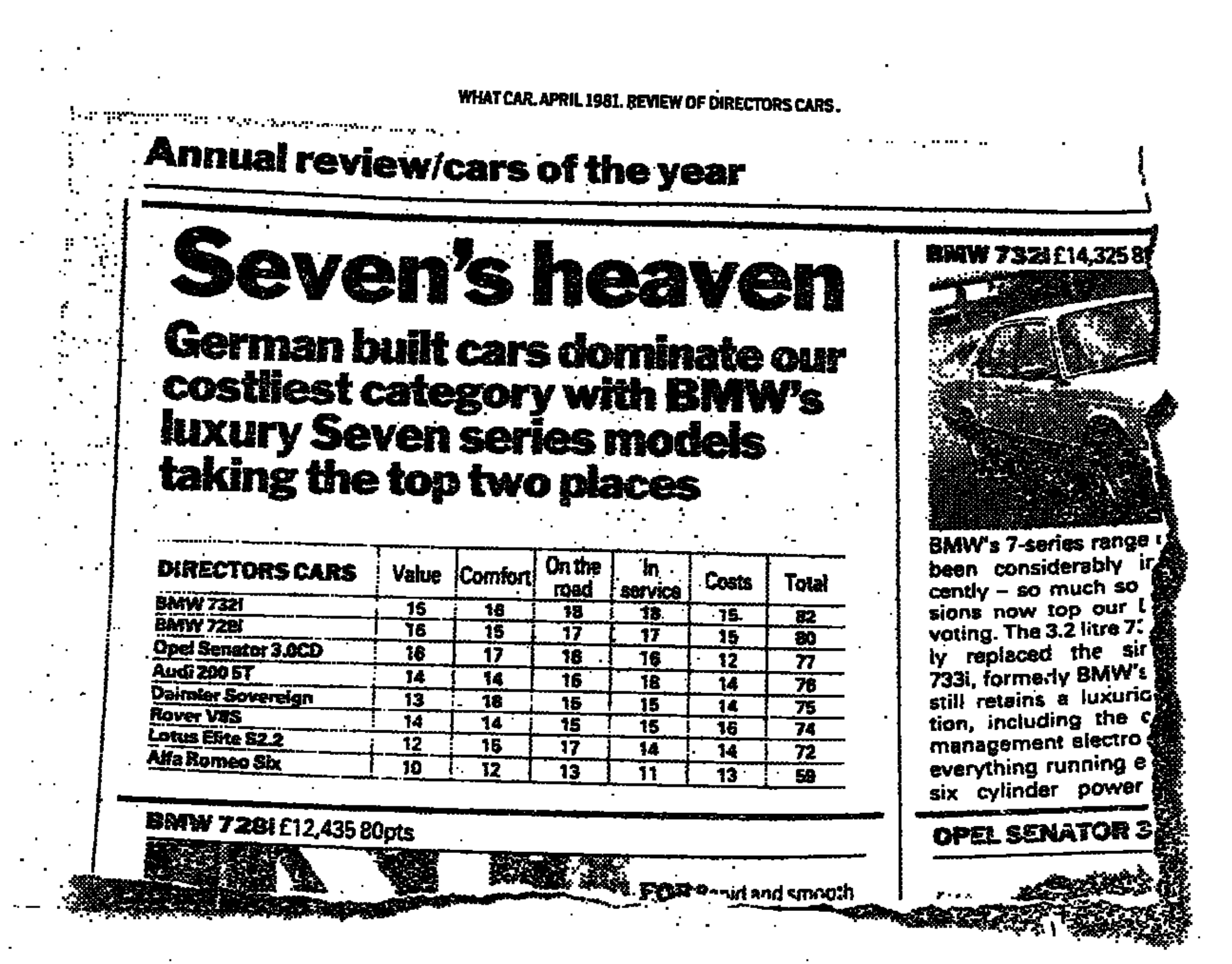
Councillor Gordon Conquest, chairman of Manchester Education Committee, and others will discuss with Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education, the effect of the new rate support grant on the city's education service.

Councillor Norman Morris, the Labour leader of Manchester City Council, said in a statement yesterday: "This lobby is not a city council gesture. It comes from the whole community

Post-mortem on a mummy

Scientists at Bristol University yesterday started a three year project to dissect an Egyptian mummy believed to be more than 3,000 years old. The mummy was disintegrating at the Bristol Museum, where it has been kept since 1906.

Unwrapping it is expected to take three weeks. It is hoped that tests will then determine the cause of death, the preservation methods used and the exact date of death.



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'Detente is dead' claim is repudiated by State Department

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 19

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has reaffirmed a resolutely anti-Soviet foreign policy. He told a Congress committee today: "Soviet adventurism in the Horn, in South Asia, in the Gulf and in South-West Africa, appears to conform to a basic and ominous objective; to strike at countries on or near the vital resource lines of the West."

Yesterday, he accused the Soviet Union of operating training camps for "embryo Third-World terrorists" and of practising "interventionism" in nearly every area of the globe.

At the same time, however, the State Department repudiated an interview given to Reuters by Richard Pipes, an official on the National Security Council, who said that "détente was dead" and that broad negotiations with the Russians were impossible under present circumstances.

Besides denouncing the Soviet Union in general, Mr Haig has made a number of specific points. He said that the United States might have to supply up to 2,500 troops for the international peacekeeping force that is to start policing the Sinai peninsula when Israel completes its withdrawal in April next year.

Soviet suspicion: The row in Washington over the remarks made by Mr Pipes will serve to reinforce Soviet convictions that the Reagan Administration, whatever its public denials, is not interested in further disarmament talks with Moscow at present (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow). The effect will be to make the forthcoming visit by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, particularly difficult.

Soviet leaders are easily attracted by conspiracy theories, and hardliners will find satisfying proof in Mr Pipes's statemen that détente is dead that Washington cannot be trusted and has now revealed its real stance.

This might be used to diminish the influence of such figures as Professor Georgi Arbatov, head of the Soviet Institute of the United States and Canada, and sometimes identified as a liberal on relations with America.

Professor Arbatov could have been the main Kremlin adviser who suggested that President Brezhnev should take a soft line with the Americans in his speech at the party congress instead of engaging in polemics, as this would be more disconcerting in Washington and politically effective in Western Europe. Indeed, he was at pains recently to justify the soft approach in a recent *Pravda* article which suggested Mr Brezhnev's sudden offer of a summit was a triumph of Soviet diplomacy.

Opponents of such people as Professor Arbatov, however, may well use the Pipes remarks to bolster the opposing view that Moscow should respond firmly to the new hard line in Washington. Inevitably Mr Pipes will be compared with Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Adviser, who was identified here as the leading hawk in the previous Administration and whom the Russians blamed for the breakdown in Soviet-American relations.

All this could make it difficult for Herr Genscher to persuade the Russians that Nato is interested in getting talks going about theatre nuclear forces in Europe.

Nato dialogue: The Western alliance favours a dialogue with the Soviet Union using all appropriate channels, including a summit meeting, Dr Joseph Luns, Nato Secretary-General, said today (Reuter reports from Brussels).

Dr Luns told reporters what he thought was the consensus emerging among the 15 alliance countries on letters sent by President Brezhnev to Western governments on arms curbs and East-West relations.

He said the letters were rather restrained and moderate "but that the general view was that the alliance would judge Soviet intentions on the basis of its actions and its willingness to show restraint".

Dr Luns said the alliance could not accept Mr Brezhnev's proposals of a moratorium on deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe because it would confirm the imbalance in favour of the Soviet Union.

"They propose to freeze what they have and to freeze what we don't have", he said. Nato does not have land-based missiles capable of hitting Soviet territory while Moscow has at least 110 SS20 missiles aimed at Western Europe, he added.

Dr Luns said Nato noted with satisfaction the Soviet acceptance to extend the zone for confidence-building measures to the whole European part of the Soviet Union, and that it was an important step toward the Western position, as defined in the French proposal for a conference on disarmament in Europe.

He added that one of the aims of Mr Brezhnev's letters could have been to try sowing discord in the minds of the allies. "But there is no rift between the United States and the allies", he said.

The tone of the letters, he said, could also have reflected the fact that the Soviet Union faces internal problems and President Reagan's intention to redress the military imbalance.

Nato's reply to the Brezhnev proposals will be included in the communiqué issued after the next alliance ministerial meeting in Rome in May.

Refusal to ratify Canada deal angers Germans and strengthens Paris-Bonn alliance

British stand on fishing threatens to sour EEC summit

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 19

The latest turn in the EEC fisheries dispute, which threatens to create a most unpleasant smell at next week's summit meeting in Maastricht, has pitted Britain against West Germany.

This must be confusing to people in Britain accustomed to seeing the fisheries quarrel presented as a straightforward British-French dust-up of a familiar Community variety.

The dispute remains, in fact, essentially a Franco-British affair. The new German dimension is merely a complicating variation of an underlying theme, though none the less damaging to Britain's relations with its EEC partners.

The story could be said to have begun last May when Britain came under pressure to offer concessions over fisheries in return for the deal struck by EEC foreign ministers on reducing Britain's contribution to the Community budget.

Britain, with its rich fishing grounds, had long demanded the main share of the Community fish catch, and insisted on the right to reserve fishing in coastal waters mainly for its own trawlers.

None of these demands was abandoned, but as a gesture of goodwill Britain did accept a commitment, together with her partners, to put a new Community fisheries policy into effect by the end of last year.

Good progress was made during the second half of last year, but in December negotiations broke down on the crucial issues of catch shares and access for French trawlers to British coastal waters.

France was widely blamed for the impasse, and there was probably more sympathy for the British case than at any time during the previous months and years of argument, when Britain had been isolated.

Unfortunately, Britain also refused to ratify fisheries agreements between the EEC and non-Community countries until an internal fisheries policy had been established. Among the agreements affected was one with Canada, which should have gone into force on January 1.

The Canadian agreement would have allowed West Germany's small deep-sea fleet into the rich cod-fishing grounds off Labrador and Newfoundland. In return, the EEC would cut tariffs on imports of 24,000 tonnes of frozen cod, herring and redfish from Canada. The fishing season off Canada ends about mid-April because the fish move elsewhere. Trawling in any case becomes more hazardous because of drifting ice. So unless the Canada deal can be ratified now it will be of little use to the Germans this year.

The British veto was at first thought to be largely tactical, and a way of keeping pressure on Bonn to support an overall fisheries settlement acceptable to Britain. If so it is a tactic that has seriously misfired, having merely reinforced the Franco-German axis, which had earlier shown signs of wilting.

But the British now say they have a more practical difficulty. Most of the Canadian fish that would come to the EEC, they say, would land up on the already depressed British market, which is ill-protected under existing EEC policy against cheap imports.

EEC foreign ministers tried earlier this week to agree on new market-strengthening measures, including a ban on cheap imports, that would enable the British to lift their veto on the Canadian deal and thus appease the West Germans, leaving the rest of the EEC fisheries policy to be decided later.

Some progress was made, and the permanent committee of EEC ambassadors is to meet tomorrow to try and put together a compromise on the basis of a new proposal from the European Commission. But there appears to be only a slim chance of agreement before the summit.

An unanswered question is whether the continuing stalemate on fish could threaten Britain's budget repayments. This was hinted at yesterday by the West Germans, who insist there is a clear link between the budget deal and the commitment to implement a new fisheries policy.

The British are inclined to dismiss this as bluff. They are also somewhat aggrieved, pointing out that they were ready last December to do a deal but were blocked by the French. They say they gave away most of their negotiating margin then and now have little room for manoeuvre.

In practice Britain's budget rebate for 1980 has been largely paid over and is thus not at risk. But if this fisheries dispute dragged on into the second half of the year, it is conceivable that the payment for 1981 could be threatened. The amount of money to be reimbursed in 1982 also has still to be negotiated.

Latest EEC proposal rejected by London

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 19

A new proposal was made here today by the European Commission aimed at enabling Britain to lift its veto on an EEC-Canada fisheries agreement which is of vital interest to West German fishermen. But it was immediately dismissed by British sources as unacceptable.

Unless the new offer can be greatly improved at a meeting of EEC ambassadors here tomorrow, it appears certain that the Anglo-German dispute will spill over into the EEC summit meeting at Maastricht next week, which promises to be a somewhat rancorous affair.

The Canadian deal would allow West Germany's deep sea trawlers into Canadian cod-fishing grounds off Labrador and Newfoundland. In return the EEC would cut tariffs on 24,000 tonnes of frozen fish imports from Canada, much of which, the British claim, would be sold on the already depressed British market.

To meet the British complaint, the Commission has proposed the adoption now of a number of market protection measures which would normally have had to await agreement on a new common fisheries policy. Such an agreement is still not in sight.

The proposed measures include a 10 per cent increase in the minimum "support" prices for cod, haddock and hake, the subsidized export to Poland of 5,000 tonnes of white fish, a ban on ultra-cheap fish imports into Britain, and a limit of 1,500 tonnes on the amount of Canadian fish entering Britain.

At a meeting of EEC foreign ministers earlier this week, however, Britain demanded a 25 per cent increase in the fish support price. This was rejected by West Germany as too high a price to pay.

Pope visits worried men at a steelworks

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 19

The Pope today approached the fiery furnace of social discontent with his visit to the steelworks at Terni where tons of molten metal were decanted before his eyes in an atmosphere of crisis in the steel industry and the worst period of labour relations for many years.

The Pontiff was pursued by reports that his own workforce at the Vatican was planning a protest march against its employer for the first week in April.

Tomorrow, Rome expects the descent of some 10,000 protesting steelworkers who are taking part in a national strike in the state foundries, while industrialists both in the private and public sectors are concluding a conference marked by a strong attitude against wage demands.

The Pope's hosts will be on strike tomorrow. He chose today for his visit because it is the feast of St Joseph, regarded by the Roman Catholic Church as the protector of the workers.

The Terni steelworks were established in 1935 by Mussolini because the town was reasonably near Rome and away from the northern frontiers. The next nearest to Rome is the steelworks in the Bay of Naples. Two days ago the city's unemployed occupied union premises until the police dispersed them making more than a hundred arrests.

The Pope said on his arrival by helicopter at Terni that he had come "to bring a word of encouragement to all the workers". He would express his solidarity, his friendship and his affection because in his earlier years he had personally shared the "hard living conditions" of a worker.

The Pontiff ate at midday in the workers' canteen and he received the 150 members of the works council. He told them that he fully understood their worries about the crisis in the steel industry which brought the threat of unemployment.

"I share your worries", the Pope said, "as fathers and as men, and I know that they are justified. He pointed out that Terni's troubles were the result of both the national and the international situation.

One of the members of the works council told the Pope that he had grasped the heart of the matter. The red flags outside the building calling for development of the works instead of a shutdown were not addressed to the Pope, the worker said. "We need the understanding of the whole Christian community."

Another member of the council told the Pope that they would go to Rome tomorrow "to defend the Terni works and to defend Italy".

The planned protest in the Vatican is organized by the Association of Lay Workers which was established in 1979 and given official recognition last year.

The Pope dons a white helmet with his name printed on it while visiting a steel plant.

Mr Dayan to lead new party in June election

From Christopher Walker
Tel Aviv, March 19

Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli war hero and former Foreign Minister, announced today that he was coming out of semi-retirement and returning to active politics in time to lead a new centre party at the general election in June.

The decision comes after weeks of speculation about the possible creation of a new party, which observers expect to have a significant effect on the outcome of the poll—possibly depriving the Opposition Labour Party of an expected landslide victory.

Addressing foreign correspondents, a confident-looking Mr Dayan said that the two main conditions enabling him to lead a new party for the Knesset (Parliament) had been met. These were agreement on a political and economic platform and the fact that 15 prominent Israeli political figures who were asked to run with him had pledged to do so.

Mr Dayan said that the new party would not be what he described as "bourgeois" in composition. Among its leading members, he stated, would be members of the kibbutz and trade union movements and prominent personalities from Israel's large community of oriental Jews. It is the oriental vote which was thought to have been the decisive element in gaining Mr Menachem Begin his unexpected victory in 1977.

Although Mr Dayan has refused to reveal the names of his new party colleagues, they are know to include Mr Yigael Hurwitz, the former Minister of Finance, and Mr Yisrael Katz, the Minister of Labour.

For the first time, Mr Dayan admitted today that his private efforts to persuade Mr Ezer Weizman, the popular former Defence Minister, to join the new party had failed.

Recent opinion polls have varied widely in their predictions about Mr Dayan's chances in the election, but one of the most reliable has recently predicted that a Dayan-led Centre Party could win 19 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

At the last election, Mr Dayan stood on the Labour Party list, but later infuriated party stalwarts by crossing over to serve in the right-wing Likud Cabinet. He resigned office in October, 1979, in protest at the Government's policy on Palestinian autonomy.

Today Mr Dayan dropped a strong hint that he would be unlikely to join a future Labour-led coalition, a decision which could give an unexpected boost to Mr Begin's chances of being reelected Prime Minister.

At his hour-long press conference, Mr Dayan emphasized that the central plank in his party's platform would be the unilateral withdrawal of the Israeli military administration from the occupied west Bank and Ghaza Strip.

Officer shot outside church

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, March 19

A Spanish Army officer was shot and seriously wounded in an attack viewed by Basque politicians as deliberately provocative to reactionary elements in the armed forces.

Lieutenant-colonel Ramon Romeo Artaeche was shot as he left a church in Bilbao today, a public holiday, the Roman Catholic feast of St Joseph, and Fathers' Day in Spain.

The military wing of the outlawed separatist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) was suspected, since it has been responsible for a number of assassinations of military officers in the past in Madrid as well as in the Basque country.

The officer, father of three children, was still alive hours after the attack, but doctors said his condition was extremely serious. He was assigned to the headquarters of the military governor of the northern province of Vizcaya as recruiting officer.

There were many witnesses to the shooting.

Mr Benn says all Europe must cooperate or perish

By David Wood

Mr Wedgwood Benn expounded his view of the Labour Party's policies for nuclear disarmament and for a wider and less limited Europeanism than the EEC offers when he delivered in Lisbon yesterday the second lecture under the joint banners of the BEC and the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Last year Mr Edward Heath spoke about the EEC; yesterday Mr Benn called his lecture "Europe: a new perspective" and saw a vision of a new and wider Europe that overrode ideological differences between East and West.

He posed the question of cooperation between East and West Europe and said that if Europe were to survive a nuclear holocaust the task must be attempted. "There must be fresh thinking and a new agenda." The Kremlin feared any genuine test of public opinion in a free election; the United States had its own worries. But both the Pentagon and the Kremlin were mistaken if they believed that the other was seriously planning for world domination.

Mr Benn saw a growing demand for democracy in communist states and for socialism in states accepting parliamentary democracy.

He called for a nuclear-free zone in Europe, without (he said) presenting the argument in terms of pacifism. He wanted the revival of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe "an agency with precisely the mandate we need", with delegations raised to ministerial level to develop it into a "major forum for developing pan-European cooperation".

Mr Benn depicted a Europe in which peoples in the East would not for ever accept their present role of tutelage from Moscow, with internal bureaucracies claiming the right to govern, but he thought there was no reason to suppose that the new generation wanted to reinstate capitalism or right-wing governments.

Today's challenge was how to return to full employment without rearmament and war. It was against that background that the whole philosophy of the Rome Treaty entrenching and sanctifying market forces would be now judged.

British envoy in talks on détente with Mr Gromyko

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Britain has been trying for two and a half years to get a meeting such as the one held on Wednesday between its ambassador in Moscow and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

After frequent requests for such a meeting, Sir Curtis Keeble found himself admitted to Mr Gromyko's presence on Wednesday. The Russians apparently decided that the time was right to press with the sceptical British. President Brezhnev's proposals on détente, including a freeze on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the meeting had covered various East-West issues, particularly Afghanistan.

Reprieve fails as death penalty debate continues

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 19

The Cour de Cassation, the highest court in France, today rejected the appeal of Philippe Maurice, aged 24, who was sentenced to death by a Paris court last October for murdering a policeman.

His last hope of clemency now lies with President Giscard d'Estaing. There is no time limit set on the President's decision, but it is likely to be known before the presidential election next May.

M Maurice is one of five men under sentence of death in French prisons. He achieved sudden notoriety last month when he shot and seriously wounded a warder in the death cell of Fresnes prison. He had obtained his gun in a parcel brought to him by his lawyer, who has emphatically denied knowledge of the parcel's contents.

M Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice, today accused M François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate for the presidency, of using false arguments to emphasize his "legitimate repugnance" for the death penalty.

M Mitterrand, in his first television appearance of the campaign, earlier this week, said: "Deep down in my conscience, which is in accord with that of the churches, the Catholic church, the reformed churches, the Jewish religion, and all the big humanitarian organizations, national and international, I am against the death penalty."

M Peyrefitte said he respected "the conviction of the Socialist candidate in the presidential elections, the more so that he himself had never made any secret of the horror which I feel for this punishment". But what was not respected was M Mitterrand's contention that his attitude was shared by the Catholic Church or the Jewish religion.

In a statement issued later today, the Israeli Embassy in Paris regretted the minister's assertions, saying he "was perhaps ill-informed". The embassy was "anxious to make it clear that the death penalty had never existed in Israel since the creation of the state. It could therefore neither be abolished nor restored."

Of the four leading candidates in the presidential elections, two—M Mitterand and M Marchais, the Communist leader, have said they are opposed to the death penalty; M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist candidate, favours a referendum, and M Giscard d'Estaing has said that the abolition of the death penalty should not be proposed to Parliament.

Setback for Israeli drive to increase settlements

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, March 19

The right-wing Israeli Government has suffered a serious legal setback to its controversial pre-election drive to increase the number of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank before polling day on June 30.

As the result of an appeal on behalf of 20 Palestinian landowners living near the West Bank town of Anabta, the Israeli High Court has issued a temporary injunction preventing any further excavation or demolition work on about 750 acres of land earmarked for a new settlement called Shavei Shomron B. The proposed settlement was one of seven started on the same day last week.

During the hearing Mrs Felicia Langer, the left-wing Jewish lawyer, submitted that the land taken for the new settlement (whose Hebrew name means "Those returning to Samaria") had belonged to local Arabs for generations and was providing them and their families with a livelihood.

A squad of armed Israelis have begun digging a 700-yard access road to the planned settlement without waiting for the statutory three-week period allowed by law for appeals against land expropriation. The hastily dug foundations for the new road run directly through almond and olive groves and plots of agricultural land clearly delineated by old stone walls.

The 20 Palestinian applicants—all of whom claim to have documents proving their ownership to parts of the land—are asking the High Court in Jerusalem for an order forcing the Israeli military government to explain its refusal to leave the area and remove its heavy bulldozers.

It is understood that the temporary injunction freezes the situation, forbidding the Army to do any more clearing work on the isolated Samarian hillside or to remove anything from the land until the lease is considered by a panel of three Israeli judges. No date has been set for the full hearing.

The Israeli action has already resulted in violent clashes between local Arabs and Jewish construction workers, and two protest marches to the site have been broken up by troops. The militant Palestinian mayor of the neighbouring town of Nablus, Mr Bassam Shaka, has been warned officially by the Israeli authorities to stop lending support to the landowners' campaign.

Trudeau refuses to halt debate on constitution

From John Best
Ottawa, March 19

Mr Pierre Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister, rejected an Opposition suggestion to suspend the constitutional debate in Parliament to make way for new economic measures.

He was replying in the Commons yesterday to Mr John Crosbie, Conservative finance spokesman and former Finance Minister, who asked him to put aside "this fetish about the constitution" and bring in new politics to deal with inflation and unemployment.

Security review delay pains West

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 19

Western diplomats attending the European security review conference are now clearly depressed at the lack of any progress in what should be the concluding phase.

Several Western delegations are known to be pressing for an end to the Madrid meeting before Easter week. But there was also talk in the conference corridors today about a fortnight's recess over Easter.

The 35-nation conference began last September. Belgium, West Germany and the United States have all gone on record in plenary session expressing deep concern at the lack of any real movement.

West Germany and Belgium have argued that the time had come either to get down to writing as substantive a concluding document as possible, or to accept closure of the meeting as a casualty of present East-West tensions and let the so-called Helsinki process for détente await kinder times.

"We must finally know where we are," Herr Jörg Kastl, leader of the West German delegation, declared bleakly. "In order to restore the reputation of this meeting, which has already begun to suffer in our peoples' eyes with all these delays, what is required now is for us to get down to giving prompt answers to the issues before us."

The Madrid conference is now in its second extra week beyond the originally foreseen termination without any substantive texts on the three main "baskets" of the 1975 Helsinki Act either agreed upon or committed to paper.

Señor Javier Ruperez, leader of the Spanish delegation, told the delegates a few days ago that they were welcome to stay in Madrid as long, as he tactfully put it, as their labours proceeded. But it was obvious he was also thinking that the Madrid Palace of Congresses, which has been monopolized for six months now by the security conference, could be used for more lucrative gatherings.

Everything seems to end in sterile debate and mutual recriminations. Spain, which had hoped that this week would produce a strong international condemnation of terrorism, has now found that no area of agreement exists and small contact groups are reduced to peddling around pieces of paper as tentative texts which may, perhaps, one day go into the final document.

Theoretically, some means must be found to get the Madrid meeting out of the rut into which it has fallen. Such a possibility appeared when Mr Brezhnev spoke last month at the Soviet Communist Party conference. He then suggested that a European disarmament conference might include extending the area of confidence building measures (CBMs) relating to troop movements to cover all the Soviet European territory.

But that hope has now gone sour, with the United States and Western delegations complaining of an ominous lack of precision when they press the Russians to say whether the CBMs could be verified.

Mr Yuri Dubynin, speaking of a "generous" Soviet initiative to extend the area from the present 250 kilometres (160 miles) inside Soviet territory to 2,500 kilometres (1,600 miles) demanded similar measures from the West. The West German delegate has protested that the Brezhnev "concession" was now being used to threaten that if there was no agreement on the Soviet demand for a disarmament conference, there would be no progress on the other "baskets", or even another follow-up conference after Madrid.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief American delegate, told the Russians that "vague and undefined conditions designed to weaken or distort the criteria laid down in the French proposals for a European disarmament conference are unacceptable to the United States".

And so the conference goes on, inconclusively, from session to session.

Disappearance of Ronald Biggs seen as a stunt

Rio de Janeiro, March 19.—Ronald Biggs, the fugitive British train robber, was still missing from his home here today, but Brazilian police believe his disappearance is a publicity stunt and not a case of kidnapping.

"We're practically convinced this is another one of Biggs' tricks," a police official said, adding: "We understand Biggs has a book of his memoirs coming out later this month

Mr Biggs, aged 51, arrived in Brazil in 1970 after escaping from a British prison where he was serving a 30-year sentence for taking part in the 1963 "great train robbery". Brazil rejected extradition requests because he was the father of a Brazilian child.—AP.

Kabul denies it aided hijackers

Moscow, March 19. — The Afghan regime today denied allegations that it had aided three men who hijacked a Pakistani airliner this month

"The Afghan authorities categorically rejected allegations that the hijackers had been given arms in Kabul," Tass said.

Reporters were told in Washington on Tuesday, that according to eywitnesses, the hijackers flew into Kabul with pistols but left armed with automatic weapons.—A.P.

President Dacko says he received Giscard cheque

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 19

President David Dacko of the Central African Republic has officially confirmed that he received a cheque from President Giscard d'Estaing for his country's Red Cross which he has yet to hand over to the organization.

The statement, which confirms an interview published yesterday by *Le Monde*, says, however, that Mrs Ruth Rolland, president of the Red Cross, was aware of the existence of the cheque from the time it was received on February 13. The implication is, therefore, that she was wrong in telling *Le Canard Enchainé* that she had no knowledge of the donation.

Mrs Rolland, who is a supporter of Mr Ange Patasse, the main rival to Mr Dacko in the presidential elections, was elected to office in the Red Cross last November. She has no executive bureau to work with her, however, and Mr Dacko has announced he cannot hand the money over until such time as the bureau is appointed. Normally this would not be until the next regular national assembly.

President wins: President Dacko has been narrowly elected for a six-year term as head of state, the Supreme Court in Bangui announced tonight (Reuter reports from Bangui).

Mr Dacko, who came to power in a French-backed coup 18 months ago, won 374,027, or 50.23 per cent of the 744,688 votes in last Sunday's ballot.

Belize agreement already showing signs of strain

By Our Diplomatic Staff

The delicate threads with which Britain managed to weave an outline agreement with Guatemala over Belize are already showing signs of strain.

Honduras, whose sea limits run near a little group of coral islets which are the key to a final settlement between Belize and Guatemala, has just condemned the outline agreement. In Belize, several dozen young people have been arrested for looting in protest at the agreement plan.

The Foreign Office, however, says it has no plans to involve Honduras in the Belize negotiations, and it dismisses the Belizean youth protests as a one-day wonder.

"Whatever the result of conversations between England and Guatemala on the Belizean problem may be, Honduras reserves its rights over the Sapodilla Cays", Señor Cesar Elvir Sierra, the Honduran Foreign Minister, said.

The Sapodilla Cays and the Ranguana Cays comprise a scattering of tiny islets and reefs east of Belize. Under the proposed agreement, Belize would give Guatemala use of these cays as well as a narrow sea channel for access to them and beyond.

Honduras, however, is claiming the Sapodilla Cays, which are mentioned in its constitution as part of the national territory.

At present the cays are used only by the occasional fisherman drying his nets. But the outline agreement envisages Guatemalan development of the cays, and raises the prospect of joint Belize-Guatemalan oil and mineral exploration in the seabed near by. In exchange Guatemala would end its territorial claim to Belize.

Honduras leaders are saying the plan is "injurious to national sovereignty" and shows "an absolute and inexcusable ignorance of Honduran rights as a coastal state" to be involved in drawing maritime demarcation lines.

In Belize, where the concessions to Guatemala on sea access and the cays are criticized by opposition groups as a sell-out of Belizean territory, police have used tear-gas this week to break up crowds of young protesters lighting fires, smashing windows and looting stores and a newspaper office in the capital.

The Foreign Office has been cautiously congratulating itself on apparently succeeding in the difficult Belize negotiations, and congratulating the Guatemalans on "fighting a good fight, but making important concessions in the end".

However, Mr George Price, the Belize Premier, is not opening the champagne prematurely. "There are hard and difficult issues still remaining to be negotiated", he said.

Leading article, page 1

Herr Genscher begins talks in Warsaw on aid and detente

Warsaw, March 19.—Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, today began talks with Polish officials on financial aid and détente, meeting Mr Józef Czyrek, his Polish counterpart.

Herr Genscher arrived here on a two-day visit bearing the promise of West German credit of DM150m (£32.5m).

A senior Polish official told reporters that the reestablishment of détente and bettering of East-West relations would be an important issue in the discussions. He added that Mr Czyrek and Herr Genscher would brief each other on the world view as seen in "other capitals"—clearly referring to Moscow and Washington.

He also indicated that, despite western concern over the joint exercises taking place in Poland, East Germany, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, the Poles did not believe in the likelihood of Soviet intervention in Poland.

Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish party leader, who arrived in Budapest today at the invitation of Mr Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, was expected to return to Warsaw in time to meet Herr Genscher.

Herr Genscher's talks are expected to focus also on the old German-Polish boundaries. Poland has been sharply critical of the continued appearance of Germany's pre-1939 border, encompassing part of present Poland, in some official West German documents and in some school history textbooks.

West Germany recently decided to allow the Third Reich's boundaries to appear in the texts. This was criticized by the Polish Army newspaper *Zolnierz Wolnosci*, which accused "revisionist" circles of wanting to jeopardize the 1970 Polish-West German treaty.

Workers declared a strike alert today in Poland's north-eastern province of Suwalki, close to the Soviet border.

The Polish radio said that leaders of the Solidarity free trade union organization in Suwalki had threatened a two-hour warning strike next Thursday and further strikes on April 1, if the Government failed to send a delegation to discuss their grievances.

Their demands included the requisition of a provincial party office for the health service, action against local officials who had lost public confidence, and an investigation into poor management and alleged violations of law and order.

Mr Jaroslaw Kozakiewicz a Solidarity leader in Suwalki, said that he would call on other regions for support if the authorities in Warsaw did not respond to the Union's demands. There are some 250 factories in the province.

Leaders of 200 militant farmers who have been occupying a building in the northern city of Bydgoszcz called on the authorities today to draft a law by April 10 enabling the registration of Rural Solidarity.

Workers in the farming town of Inowroclaw declared a strike alert today in support of the Bydgoszcz protesters.

Leaders of Poland's 100,000 timber workers assembled in at least three centres, Wroclaw, Opole and Gorlice, in preparation for a strike campaign next week.

Lumber men in Szczecin were expected to join, and union officials said that at least 12 provinces were gearing up for strikes.

The officials said they planned a short warning strike on Monday, followed by a national closure of mills on Wednesday unless the Timber and Forestry Ministry honoured an agreement signed in December on wages and conditions.

A director of the state timber mill held preliminary talks with workers in Wroclaw, but there was no indication that the Government was ready for full-scale talks, the officials said.—UPI, AP, Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

S Africans step up fight against Swapo

From Eric Marsden
Windhoek, March 19

South African forces deployed along the Angolan border have intensified their attacks on guerrillas of the South-West Africa Peoples Organization (Swapo) and are making renewed efforts to prevent villagers in Ovamboland from aiding the insurgents.

It was disclosed here today that in the last seven days 35 guerrillas had been killed by security forces, bringing the total of Swapo deaths so far this year to 318. Major-General Charles Lloyd, commander of the South-West Africa Territory Forces, repeated his warning to Angola not to aid Swapo or allow it to operate from its soil. His troops had to protect the people of Namibia and had "no option but to act against Swapo terrorists harboured on Angolan soil".

General Lloyd's warning followed yesterday's terse communiqué disclosing that South African aircraft had bombed a large Swapo training camp near Lubango, nearly 150 miles from the Namibia border, on Tuesday. The attack apparently came as a surprise and little resistance was encountered from Swapo anti-aircraft guns.

The air raid has brought South Africa its first rebuke from the United States Administration, which expressed "utmost concern" at the increase in violence by both sides in Namibia. The statement emphasized also that America did not believe there could be a military solution to the dispute.

It is noted that the statement is not the kind of condemnation that was made frequently by the Carter Administration, but it will be an embarrassment for Mr Dirk Mudge, chairman of the Namibian Council of Ministers, who is in Washington with several of his council colleagues seeking to capitalize on the "anti-terrorist" policy of President Reagan. The Namibian internal leaders had been asked by American officials to delay their visit but decided they could not do so.

At a press conference in Windhoek today Brigadier Jan Klopper, Chief of Staff (operations) in Namibia, said that 17 of the guerrillas killed in the past week died in two clashes with the security forces. The others fell in minor skirmishes.

In the biggest clash, south of Ombalantu in north-west Ovamboland, a South African patrol was ambushed by Swapo but returned fire and put the gang to flight. The brigadier said 11 guerrillas were killed

Five Ovambo women and two children had been killed in a landmine explosion near Mbalantu. Two other civilians had been murdered by Swapo, including a woman who was shot dead after being abducted from her home.

Though there is no indication of any involvement by Angolan forces in the latest incidents, General Lloyd's warning is aimed at deterring Angola from continuing its logistical and communications aid to the badly battered Swapo forces,



Women guerrillas: Six female rebel troops posing with their weapons in eastern Chad. The women are fighting Soviet-backed Libyan troops and this group claims to have shot down a helicopter gunship and destroyed a tank. Forces loyal to Mr Hissen Hebré, the rebel Chad Defence Minister, killed 10 Libyan soldiers in clashes in eastern Chad last week, the Sudan news agency reported yesterday. Five Libyans were also wounded and four Libyan vehicles lost, the agency added in a despatch from the Sudanese city of Geneina which is near the border between Chad and Sudan.

The Libyans attacked the rebel Chad forces in the Bare district. The agency said that the sound of gunfire could be heard 20 miles away. Libyan troops helped the forces loyal to President Goukouni Oueddei drive the Habré guerrillas from Ndjamena, the Chad capital, last December,

Legal battle halts sale of Paris art hoard

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 19

A magnificent collection of engravings and paintings by many of the best artists of the early part of this century including Picasso is being shown at the Paris salerooms of Drouot for the first and possibly the last time. A court has halted the sale while legal proceedings take place to determine who owns it.

The collection, which has been locked in a bank vault for 40 years, was assembled just before the Second World War by Erich Chlomovitch, a Yugoslav who arrived in France in 1936.

He became a close friend and collaborator of Ambroise Vollard, one of the leading art dealers in Paris at the time, who entrusted him with pictures acquired from famous artists he had known.

Mr Chlomovitch added to the collection, having been befriended by artists like Jean Cocteau, who dedicated one drawing to him.

Two months before the outbreak of the Second World War M Vollard was killed in a car crash near Paris and when the war began Mr Chlomovitch hired a safe in the vaults of the Société Générale and entrusted the paintings to the bank's care. In 1943 he died.

The bank never opened the safe, despite the fact that the fee for its hire was never paid. But after 40 years the management decided that the time had come to clear the growing debt. The safe was opened and it was decided to put the collection on sale against the accumulated letting fee.

A magnificent catalogue was drawn up and the auctioneers at Drouot prepared for what was confidently expected to be one of the most important sales they had organized in recent years.

Once the sale was advertised, however, the late Mr Chlomovitch began to acquire heirs. In all, 15 people laid claim to the collection, including the Yugoslav Government the heirs of M Vollard and an Israeli called Mr Goldfinger.

All of them sought to have the sale, which was scheduled to take place today and tomorrow, annulled. One industrialist wrote to President Giscard d'Estaing to complain that it would be wrong to break up so fine a collection when all that was involved was a safe rental fee of no more than 100,000 francs (£9,000).

With 48 hours to go before the sale was due to start the Yugoslav consul succeeded in persuading the Paris tribunal to postpone the sale. The consul's request was based on a 1929 convention allowing him to act on behalf of heirs of a Yugoslav national in their absence.

Part of Mr Chlomovitch's collection is already in the Belgrade museum as part of an earlier donation and Yugoslavia is claiming that part of the lot put up for sale was really intended to go with it.

Apart from others who claim to be heirs of the Yugoslav, the legal battle will be joined by the widow of M Edouard Jonas, a former French deputy who was the sole heir of M Vollard's brother, Lucien, and who is said to have owned a number of pictures entrusted to the bank vaults.

The legal argument therefore threatens to be protracted and the public in Drouot's these past three days have been given the chance of a rare glimpse of this collection of Bonnard, Dégas, Chagall, Picasso, Cocteau, Léger, Forain, Dérain and Valéry.

Kenyan is accused of treason

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 19

Two Kenyans, Mr Andrew Muthemba, a hardware merchant, and Mr Dickson Muiruiri, who is unemployed, appeared in a Nairobi court today charged with treason and misprision of treason respectively.

Mr Muthemba is accused of plotting to overthrow President Daniel Arap Moi, and Mr Muiruiri is accused of knowing of the plot and failing to take action to avert it. They were not required to plead to the charges, and were remanded in custody for a preliminary hearing next week, when a magistrate will decide whether there is a prima facie case for trial in the High Court.

The men, both members of the Kikuyu tribe may on conviction face a sentence of death by hanging.

Earlier this month, they both pleaded not guilty to charges of attempting to obtain arms from a Kenya army captain and a corporal.

They were alleged to have tried to steal hand grenades, bombs, mortars, machine-guns, rifles, plastic explosives and other items from the Kenya Army.

On that occasion, the court was told that investigations were still proceeding and that further charges might be preferred.

Mr Sharad Rao, the deputy public prosecutor, gave not further details of the charges today. He said the state had completed its investigations. The court was crowded.

This is the first allegation of a plot to oust President Moi since he took office in 1978 on the death of President Jomo Kenyatta. There were allegations of a plot to kill some leading Kenyans including Mr Moi when he was Vice-President, in order to prevent him from succeeding on the death of President Kenyatta.

Nobody has been charged in connexion with the Kenyatta succession allegations.

Lack of money and transport to prevent starvation

Shortage and surplus in Africa

From John Earle
Rome, March 19

Africa is in a paradoxical situation. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization lists 28 countries in the east, west and centre of the continent as afflicted by grave food shortages, resulting from prolonged drought and an increasing number of refugees from civil strife. Yet, to the south, South Africa and Zimbabwe report record surpluses of maize.

South Africa forecasts a maize harvest of 13.4 million tons, which would leave more than seven million tons available for export, as about six million tons is consumed at home. FAO estimates that the cereal (not only maize) needs for 1980-81 of the 28 countries of Africa, which range from Angola and Mozambique up to Senegal in the west and Somalia in the east, amount to 6.5 million tons.

South Africa is not a member of the United Nations family of organizations, and so officially FAO does not monitor its agricultural situation and makes no effort to help in channelling its surpluses to those in need. In practice, FAO officials say, they know that substantial quantities of surplus food find their way to other parts of the African continent, often in normal commercial transactions.

The problem, they maintain, is not so much one of availability—there is enough grain in the world today, even if stocks are running dangerously low—but of money and, to a certain extent, primitive transport and distribution systems.

FAO is therefore encouraging what one official called a "triangular fairy godmother system", under which a developed country provides the cash to buy grain available in a second country to relieve hunger in a third.

It sponsored a meeting recently of 38 potential donor countries and international organizations, at which 12 announced new or increased contributions for Africa. These included the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, Sweden, Japan and, subsequently, Italy—but not Britain.

The crisis is also being tackled with emergency action from the United Nations world food programme and, for the longer term, with technical assistance projects by FAO.

The effects of drought, lasting for two years in some countries, have been compounded by the most widespread civil strife in Africa since decolonization.

The fear at FAO is that these problems may become chronic, for there is a limit to the goodwill of fairy godmothers, and Africa cannot look to a future based on emergency after emergency.

The most seriously affected countries on the FAO list are the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The others are Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Dijbouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Upper Volta, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In view of the reported bumper maize crop, FAO officials say Zambabwe is likely to be removed from the list.

Solidarity has observers at union talks in Delhi

rom Our Correspondent
elhi, March 19

A three-member delegation of ie Polish Solidarity indepenent trade union has arrived in elhi to take part as observers a discussion of the Interational Confederation of Free rade Unions on the role of ade unions in development.

Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, the ader of the delegation, plying at a press conference a question whether and when e Poles were expecting the viet Union to intervene, said: Ve are members of the War- w Pact. The Russians are all er. So there is no question of tervention; they are already ere."

Asked if the Poles believed in Marxism, Mr Gwaiazda said that they believed only in the Polish identity, not Marxism. Just as Yugoslavia had found a separate identity, "we want an identity of our own".

He added that for 30 years there was no dissent in Poland. There was only one type of system prevailing; now dissent was visible. Even Solidarity had dissent in its own ranks.

Asked about press censorship, Mr Gwaiazda said that censors "are afraid to come to us because they know we shall beat them". He admitted that the situation in Poland was "grim" but added that with "hard work and sacrifice" the country could meet it.

ig drive against uerrillas n Colombia

Bogotá, March 19—The lombian Army is using 10,000 en in an anti-guerrilla operan which has been marked by avy fighting along the Ecuaran border in the south.

At least 16 guerrillas from e extremist M-19 Movement ve been killed, and another taken prisoner, in battles in e Putumayo and Narino gions in the south, General rnando Landazabal, commanding the operation, said.

The prisoners included two 19 leaders, Señor Carlos ledo Plata and Señor Rosenrg Pabon, whose capture had rlier been unofficially reorted by Colombian radio.

Señor Pabon was alleged to ve directed the two-month cupation of the Dominican ibassy here last year.—tence France Presse.

hile bomb blasts

Santiago, March 19.—A iema and a shop were troyed by bombs here. Five mbs exploded and three ters were dismantled in two ier cinemas and a superrket.

iplets after twins

Colombo, March 19.—The 30-ar-old mother of eight chiln, including two sets of ns, has now given birth to olets.

Turkish leftist 'beaten by police in Ankara jail'

Ankara, March 19.—Mr Mustafa Kemal Camkiran, a Turkish left-wing opposition leader, was, according to his lawyers, beaten by the police on admission to jail in Ankara on Tuesday.

Mr Camkiran, a member of the central committee of the Peasants' Party, had returned from exile in West Germany the day before, and was at once detained at Mamak military prison.

He had sought political asylum in West Germany last July, before the officers' coup in Turkey, and was among 275 opposition exiles the military regime summoned to return on pain of losing their nationality.

Mr Camkiran's lawyers, Mr Ugur Uzer and Mr Nusret Senem, said they noticed that his body and hands were covered with bruises when they visited him the day after his detention.

They sent a telegram to Mr Bulent Ulusu, the Prime Minister, and the military prosecutor, demanding that he should be examined by a doctor, and that legal proceedings should be taken against the sergeant allegedly responsible for assaulting him.

Before leaving West Germany on Monday, Mr Camkiran indicated that he was giving himself up to the Turkish authorities as a gesture of recognition for their "positive efforts" to restore democracy.

In central Turkey, 57 suspected right-wing terrorists were arrested by military forces, the authorities said today.

They were suspected members of the outlawed underground Idealistic Path, which killed at least 23 political opponents in the two years before the coup.

The authorities said that the group would be charged with armed robberies, bomb attacks on buildings and assaults on people on its "hit lists".

The police made house-to-house searches overnight in a district west of Istanbul after a suspected terrorist and a policeman were killed in a gun battle, police sources said today.

The police set up roadblocks and searched cars for a wounded terrorist who escaped in a car and another who fled on foot.

The sources said the shooting broke out when detectives stopped four men who went to the house of a businessman allegedly to collect a ransom demanded in an anonymous telephone call.

The police were tipped off by the businessman, and a team of sharpshooters set a trap for the four men who identified themselves as members of the leftist terrorist group Revolutionary Way.—Agence France Presse, UPI and AP.

Guerrillas killed in Philippines

Manila, March 19. Twenty-five Muslim separatist guerrillas were killed in a clash with Government troops last Monday in Pata, Southern Philippines, where 119 soldiers were massacred on February 12, it was announced today.

General Fortunato Abat said troops encountered a band of about 70 rebels in a hilly part of Pata island, 570 miles South of Manila, in the course of a big search and destroy operation. No Government casualties were reported. Agence France-Presse.

Mr Mugabe warns West against neutrality

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 19

Western powers could not afford to be neutral towards South Africa while it was carrying out acts of aggression against neighbouring states, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, said today.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a visit by President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Mr Mugabe said that the time had come for Western powers openly to condemn South Africa.

He referred to the most recent raid by South African forces into Mozambique, on Tuesday, and asserted that the country had embarked on a programme of concerted aggression, "because it feels that the the Western powers will support it".

He asked: "Are they (the West) our friends or our enemies—in the circumstances that we are trying to consolidate our independence?"

Mr Mugabe said that some of South Africa's weapons, including French Mirage jet aircraft, were supplied by Nato countries.

In a joint communiqué the two leaders condemned South African "intransigence" on Namibia (South-west Africa) and the "Pretoria regime's naked aggression against front-line states".

Mr Stevens arrived here on Tuesday on the last stage of a tour of 10 African countries during which he has held consultations on Namibia, the proposed Libya-Chad merger and the new United States Administration.

While he was critical of recent Western responses in the region, Mr Mugabe took a cautious line on the postures of President Reagan's administration on southern Africa generally and Angola in particular.

He said: "We do not want to judge him too hastily; he is still working out a policy for southern Africa."

President Stevens said: "Any administration, be it ever so powerful, should not forget that if a man, or nation, is drowning he will grab at anything that comes up . . . superpowers should bear that in mind."

On Angola, Mr Mugabe said that its Government was legitimate with sovereign power and the right to territorial integrity. Dr Jonas Savimbi and his Unita guerrilla movement were "a group of reactionaries trying to subvert legitimate authority".

Owen criticism: Zimbabwe's transition from white-ruled Rhodesia to majority rule could not be declared a complete success for British or Western diplomacy, Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, said. He told a lunch meeting of the Foreign Press Association in London that Zimbabwe's economy was in a critical state.

11 accused of plotting a coup in Sudan

Khartum, March 19.—Sudan said today that 11 people had been arrested for plotting an Army coup against the pro-Western government of President Jaafar Nimeiri.

Vice-President Abdel Magid Hamid Khalil told the Army newspaper *Armed Forces* that the plotters were led by a retired brigadier, Saad Bahar, and included three majors and three non commissioned officers.

President Nimeiri has survived three serious coup attempts and numerous plots during his 12-year rule. He referred briefly to a recent coup in a press interview this week and said it was possibly inspired by Syria.—Reuter.

Jetfoil runs aground

Hongkong, March 19.—A jetfoil crossing from Hongkong to Macao ran aground in a thunderstorm injuring 85 of its 170 passengers, police said.

Ocean crossing by rowing boat

Casablanca, March 19.—An American couple set out from Casablanca yesterday in a fibreglass rowing boat named Excalibur to row the Atlantic to Florida on an expedition for the Explorers' Club of New York.

Mr Curtis Saville, who is 33, and a former United States Navy man, and his wife Kathleen, aged 24, hope to reach Florida in about 90 days. Their boat has neither sails nor an engine.—Reuter.

70 held in new outbreak of Seoul campus violence

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, March 19

South Korean university students rekindled memories of last year's violent campus disturbances when they held an anti-government demonstration in Seoul today.

Some 300 students from the Seoul National University demonstrated on campus today, denouncing the Government as "fascist", shouting slogans and handing out leaflets.

The demonstration was the first since President Chun Doo Hwan was elected by indirect vote last month and comes less than a week before a general election.

Eyewitnesses said that there were about 3,000 students on the campus when the demonstration began but the police said that only about 300 were directly involved. The demonstration lasted for about an hour before riot police broke it up, detaining 70 students.

Leaflets distributed by the students called for the overthrow of the "fascist dictatorship" Government, freedom of the press and academic freedom.

The police said the demonstration was instigated by a few leftist students who were wanted by the authorities in connexion with an anti-government demonstration last November. The terms used in the leaflets and slogans were said to be "typically communist".

Today's demonstration was described by the police as anachronistic but, as South Korean student disturbances usually start in the spring at the beginning of the academic year, many people may be wondering if this foreshadows a new outbreak of student unrest.

Mr Fraser opposes state's plan for Aborigines

m Douglas Aiton
lbourne, March 19

serious confrontation ears to be looming between federal Australian Governt and the Queensland ernment, led by the ultraservative Mr Johannes lke-Petersen.

Ir Bjelke-Petersen is detered to turn Queensland's riginal reserves into "self erning Aboriginal communi"—words that are being ely interpreted as another mpt by the Queensland ernment to relieve itself of onsibility for its Aboriginal munity.

Ir Malcolm Fraser, the ral Prime Minister, who developing an impressive -racialist image, is strongly osed to Mr Bjelke-Petersen's , although officially he does have authority over the ensland Premier on this ter.

r Fraser has said he hopes Premier will not do anything that stirs up trouble for the Commonwealth Games, due to be held in Brisbane next year. Aboriginal activists have urged a boycott because of the treatment of Queensland blacks.

During talks on Monday, Mr Fraser asked Mr Bjelke-Petersen to keep Canberra fully informed of his plans.

The president of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, Mr Abraham Ordia, arrived in Australia this week for talks on the Commonwealth Games. He will meet federal Government officials and visit Brisbane where he will inspect the games' sites and talk to state officials.

For his part, Mr Bjelke-Petersen believes his plan to repeat the controversial legislation will reduce the chances of black nations boycotting the games.

He said this week that the state Government would repeal its two acts covering Aborigines and islanders by the end of this year. But he did not expect the state to set up a system of self-governing Aboriginal communities in place of the reserves, which will be abolished.

"We don't want them set aside in some country that becomes black man's country—we want them to live exactly like you do", Mr Bjelke-Petersen told a press conference. "We'll make them Queenslanders just like you and I—we won't pass any new law."

He said the state Government would repeal the legislation because the laws had been widely criticized as paternalistic and antiquated. The federal Government is anxious that provision should be made for the communities to run their own affairs.

Although Mr Bjelke-Petersen indicated that he did not favour replacing aboriginal and islander legislation with new legislation, Mr Tomkins, his Aboriginal Affairs Minister, believed new legislation would replace the old. "I don't think it will be repealed and nothing put in its place", Mr Tomkins said.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said that he had told Mr Fraser on Monday that he (Mr Fraser) and other Liberals had constantly criticized him over the years about the Queensland legislation but now seemed worried over its repeal.

"For a long time I've kept the Act there because the (Aboriginal and Islander) people have asked me to keep it, and I have been criticized, condemned and ridiculed", Mr Bjelke-Petersen said. "I'm only doing what everyone says I ought to do."

But he made it clear that although he did not mind the federal Government increasing its funds for Aboriginal affairs to Queensland, he did not want Canberra to try to dictate policy.

Argentina's Nobel winner fears end to liberalization

From Andrew McLeod
Buenos Aires, March 19

Señor Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner, has complained of a "strong escalation of repression" in Argentina, pointing to a recent wave of arrests and kidnappings as a sign that a gradual move towards liberalization may be coming to a halt.

Señor Pérez Esquivel referred in a statement on Monday to the arrest and questioning of 67 of the "mothers of Plaza de Mayo"—the relatives of people who have disappeared without trace—and a Franciscan, and the alleged kidnapping and torture of two men by plain-clothes police.

All have been released since, but one of the kidnapped men, Señor Jorge Magrino, is reported to have been taken to hospital because of his condition after release. Both Señor Magrino and the other man, Señor Héctor Pinón, are reported to have been tortured with an electric prod.

At the press conference Señor Pérez Esquivel also said that he had written a letter to President Ronald Reagan asking him to refrain from military intervention in El Salvador.

Señor Pérez Esquivel was asked by a foreign journalist whether the recent arrests and kidnappings, which happened just before President-designate Roberto Viola left for the United States on an official visit, were premeditated. He replied: "Viola himself will have to answer that question."

Most observers believe that dissident factions of the armed forces are responsible for the latest repression, which is designed to embarrass the President-designate

FOREIGN REPORT

Argentina asks if Isabel Perón has had enough of politics

Speculation over the future of former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron of Argentina has mounted here with reports of her imminent release after five years as a prisoner of the military Government of General Jorge Rafael Videla.

The incoming President, Lieutenant-General Roberto Viola, is thought to be keen on solving the Peron problem before he takes over from General Videla on March 29. The new military Government would like to start with a clean slate where human rights are concerned, and Señora Perón's continued imprisonment has become an embarrassment.

The snail-like pace of the Argentine judicial system, Señora Perón's ailing health — early this month she had an emergency visit from her personal doctor for a heart complaint — and demands for her release by the splintered but increasingly noisy Peronists have all combined to make her release highly possible before or soon after General Viola's assumption of office — whether or not the judiciary have reached a decision by then.

Federal Judge Norberto Giletta, who is handling two of the five charges against Señora Peron, is expected to pass a sentence of perhaps six years for the mishandling of Peronist Solidarity Crusade funds. But Señora Perón's defence lawyer, Dr Julio Arriola, would appeal against this, since Señora Perón has already spent five years under arrest while the charges against her were being slowly marshalled and investigations carried out.

Dr Arriola himself is tipped by some observers to be the dark horse in the struggle for power within the Peronist movement. The son of Juan Domingo Perón's envoy to Paraguay in 1946, Dr Arriola has had closer contact with Señora Perón during her detention than most leaders of the various Peronist splinter groups.

But the most prominent candidate for power within the movement appears to be Señor Lorenzo Miguel, head of the Metalworkers' Union and the only Peronist leader to receive a letter from Isabel, as the Peronists know her, during her detention. The letter, sent to Señor Miguel after his release from prison last year, praised him for "maintaining his convictions".

Other Peronist factions are said to have urged Señora Perón's resignation as President of the Justicialist (Peronist) Party while still others have remained loyal to her.

Yet, even as the ten Peronist factions jockey for position, it is not clear whether Señora Perón intends to remain in the country after her release. She may fly to Panama, where the commander-in-chief, General Omar Torrijos, an old friend of Señora Peron and of her late husband, is said to have furnished a house for her. General Torrijos has long pressed for her release. His brother Hugo tried in vain to persuade the Argentine Government to release her when he was Panamanian Ambassador to Buenos Aires from May, 1979 until July, 1980. In December last year, General Torrijos sent his sister, Berta, to see Señora Perón.

But if the former President does travel to Panama, it is likely to be for only a short stay. The lure of Madrid, where she lived with her late husband in exile for many years, is strong. She is said to be concerned about the handling of the Perón fortune — an estimated $12m (£5.5m) — by the former *éminence grise* of her government, and former Social Welfare Minister, Señor José Lopez Rega, who is said to commute between Switzerland and Spain.

Señor Lopez Rega, a practitioner of the occult and reputed founder of the right-wing Triple A (Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance), wielded a strong influence over the former President, although Dr Arriola has said this influence has now ended.

Señora Perón has another good friend in Europe in Señora Pilar Franco, sister of the late Spanish dictator, who hinted in a recent interview with an Argentine news magazine that a visit by the former President to Spain was a distinct possibility. But she described as nonsense reports that Isabel would try to reorganize the Peronists from her Puerta de Hierro residence there. She said this would be an impossible task for Señora Perón without the help of Perón



Señora Perón

himself. And Isabel, at this stage, she added, must be extremely tired of politics.

If Señora Perón does decide to remain in Argentina, she is likely to stay on at her residence in San Vicente, where she has been held in comfortable detention since her transfer there from a Navy base in 1977. The military are apparently unconcerned over this eventuality — like Señora Pilar Franco. They believe the reorganization of the squabbling Peronist factions to be too big a task for the ailing Señora Perón.

Andrew McLeod

Iran and Iraq replace their lost weapons and mobilize reserves

Hint of spring and war in the air

The Gulf war which everyone thought would be over in about six days when it opened on September 22, has now lasted six months. Will our map, which shows the latest positions on the battlefield, need to be redrawn for the war's first anniversary in the autumn?

The question is apposite because of the conjuction of two events. One is the recent failure of the latest Islamic peace initiative which foundered, like its predecessors, on the bedrock of Iranian fundamentalism. Another is the approach of spring, which renews the possibility of an offensive by one side or the other after the winter rains.

That possibility has not quite arrived. The soil at the war front is said to be drying out, enabling tanks once more to move through the flat expanses of Southern Khuzestan. But rivers remain high and are likely to be so for another month as melting snow in the northern highlands feeds their tributaries.

Now is the time, however, when western analysts would expect to see extensive redeployment of troops if either army were contemplating the concentration of forces for a fresh offensive. So far there have been few signs that this is happening.

There have been developments during the winter stalemate — imposed partly by the weather and partly by what has been caustically described as the "delicate balance of incompetence".

The Iranians have moved an estimated 2,000 troops into Abadan, probably doubling their forces in the city. The reinforcements, mostly regular or reserve soldiers as opposed to Ayatollah Khomeini's Revolutionary Guard, have been successfully landed by boat together with additional equipment, including artillery.

Both countries have been importing weapons to replace those lost in the early stages of the fighting. Iraq's armaments are thought to have been brought back to their pre-war peak by a steady flow of supplies from the Soviet Union. On the other hand, there is evidence only of one-for-one replacement, not of any quantum increase or of advanced Russian equipment.

Iran too has been importing ammunition and spares from a variety of sources on the international arms market. Here the emphasis is thought to have been on refurbishing aircraft and land vehicles which, through a shortage of spares, could not be used in the initial fighting.

Both armies have been busily mobilizing reserves and training recruits. But again the training programmes seem to have been routine, without any emphasis on large-scale manoeuvres. All of Iraq's 12 army divisions are now involved, if only partly, in the war. One estimate has measured the army's commitment as the equivalent of nine divisions, or about 135,000 out of a total strength of 200,000 men. But units in the front line are being rotated so by no means all of these are active in the trenches at any one time.

Iran is thought to have committed about 65,000 out of a total of 150,000 men — which was about the strength of the Army after the post-revolutionary purges.

In Khuzestan, western sources believe Iran has the equivalent of two divisions facing an Iraqi force of the equivalent of six divisions. This sounds like the classic three-to-one formula which, in theory, might justify an Iraqi offensive.

Iraq, however, has enjoyed a similar advantage from the start of the war, without being able to secure the sweeping victory for which President Saddam Husain had hoped and planned. Moreover, the forces remain thinly spread along various parts of the front, so there would have to be a substantial concentration of resources to make any offensive look feasible.

The Iranians launched a limited counter-offensive at the beginning of the year, from the area of Dezful towards Ahwaz and Susangerd. But the build-up of troops was well known to the Iraqis, who were able to hold their main positions — and who then missed the opportunity to launch a successful thrust in reply.

The most likely movement, if "likely" is the right word, would now be a renewed Iraqi assault on Abadan. The capture of the oil city would represent a prize whose glitter is by now slightly tarnished. But it would give the Iraqis theoretical control of the Shatt al-Arab — the strategic waterway which has been throughout a focal point in the war.

Could such an assault be successful? The answer is that it could — but only just. The Iraqis have established only one bridgehead across the Karun river, and still need to restore a bridge over the Bahmanshir, the canalized river to the east of Abadan island. Their earlier bridge was destroyed soon after it was built, and the only other one remaining is still in Iranian control. Analysts point out too that Iraqi bridging operations so far have been correct but painfully slow.

Even if they did succeed, would the loss of Abadan force the Ayatollah to discuss peace terms? Few observers think that it would, which makes some political turnabout in Tehran appear the most important outcome for President Saddam Husain if he is to win the war — and the peace.

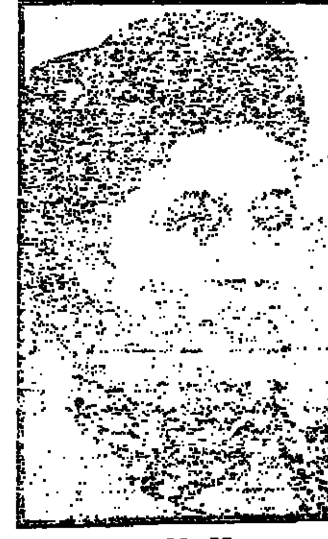
Henry Stanhope

Marivan
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Shatt al Arab
KUWAIT
The Gulf
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Abadan
5 miles
Shatt al Arab

Filipinos count the cost of martial law

After witnessing the abolition of martial law in the Philippines a few weeks ago, many Filipinos are perturbed to find that the protracted era of authoritarian rule has eradicated most of the country's political institutions.

There can be little doubt that eight years of martial law have provided the archipelago of 7,000 islands with a relative measure of stability and law. An insurrection of Muslim separatists in the south has been contained, the communist rebels, belonging to the banned New People's Army, are in disarray and political assassinations and bombings — common events on the streets of Manila before martial law — no longer occur.



Mrs Imelda Marcos

The regime used draconian powers to whittle away any legitimate form of dissent and today 47 million Filipinos find themselves caught in a dilemma between the nation's three remaining political institutions: President Ferdinand Marcos, his ambitious wife, Imelda, and the country's only effective opposition force, the powerful Catholic Church.

While President Marcos made the gesture of lifting martial law in January before the Pope visited Manila, he has in fact made certain that he will retain his wide powers.

For instance, the decree abolishing martial law also happens to ensure that all presidential orders of the past eight years will remain in force unless they are repealed by the President. Under other decrees President Marcos virtually retains absolute power to censor the press, close down newspapers, imprison dissidents without explanation and ban demonstrations and public meetings.

He is firmly in the saddle and is at present revising the country's constitution to extend his tenure in office.

In the first place he has called a national referendum in April which is almost certain to approve of constitutional amendments permitting President Marcos to run for office again during an election in May. Changes in the constitution will allow President Marcos to seek another six-year term in office in 1987.

He is almost certain to be swept back into power, unchallenged by any political group. His nearest political rival, Senator Benigno Aquino, who was detained as a political prisoner for more than seven years, is now in exile in the United States, and the country's other debilitated opposition groups have decided not to put up candidates at the election because they believe the poll is invalid.

Many Filipinos also fear that Mrs Imelda Marcos, the President's forceful wife, sometimes known as the "steel butterfly", is being groomed to succeed.

Described by opposition leaders as a "ruthless and power-hungry socialite", Mrs Marcos has served as a member of the Cabinet, held the post of Governor of Manila and has been appointed to other influential positions.

In essence, President Marcos and his wife, both staunch Christians, stand unchallenged in the Philippines today except by worried segments of a fractured but powerful Catholic Church. More than 85 per cent of a population of 47 million Filipinos are Roman Catholic. The Church also operates 21 radio stations and influential religious magazines and newspapers.

While the Pope and Cardinal Jamie Sin, the respected Archbishop of Manila, recently instructed the clergy to refrain from meddling in politics, all the evidence indicates that the Marcos regime is becoming increasingly concerned by growing criticism.

More perturbing still are reports that a powerful section of the divided Church has entered the political arena to undermine the regime.

An organization called the Basic Christian Communities has begun to operate secretly in the rural areas to counter official abuse of human rights.

"This organization is perhaps more dangerous than the communists because the Government will find it difficult to crack down on the Church. Secondly, the priests have formed tight cells and it is difficult for the police to infiltrate them", a spokesman for the national security police explains.

In addition hundreds of Roman Catholics, disillusioned by the indifference of the Church's leaders towards political abuse, have joined the radical Marxist underground, the New People's Army.

In perspective, the radical segment of the Church is unlikely to play any significant role in ousting President Marcos from Malacanang palace. But there is little doubt that the dissenting voices of the more moderate leaders of the Church, such as Archbishop Sin, are growing louder.

In contrast to the plight of his other political opponents, President Marcos can do little to muzzle his critics in the Church who find themselves securely consolidated and immune from reprisals by the Pope's triumphant visit to the Philippines last month.

Peter Hazelhurst

Law Report March 19 1981

'Recklessness' in the criminal law

Metropolitan Police Commissioner v Caldwell

Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Roskill

The House of Lords, interpreting authoritatively the meaning of "recklessness" in relation to the offence of arson under the Criminal Damage Act, 1971, held, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Wilberforce not agreeing, that where a person was charged under section 1(2) with *intending* to endanger by acts of arson the life of another, evidence of self-induced intoxication could be relevant to his defence, but that if the charge was, or included a reference to his, being reckless whether the life of another would thereby be endangered, evidence of self-induced intoxication was not relevant.

The House dismissed an appeal by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner from the Court of Appeal (Lord Widgery, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Mr Justice O'Connor) which had allowed an appeal by James Caldwell, aged 47, against his conviction at the Central Criminal Court of arson with intent to endanger life, contrary to section 1(2)(b) of the Criminal Damage Act. His plea of guilty to simple arson was not accepted. He appealed against his conviction on the ground that the recorder (Miss Southworth, QC) had misdirected the jury on the question of intent as laid down in section 1(2).

The Court of Appeal had certified the following question of law for the opinion of the House: "Whether evidence of self-induced intoxication can be relevant to the following questions—(a) whether the defendant intended to endanger the life of another; and (b) whether the defendant was reckless as to whether the life of another would be endangered, within the meaning of section 1(2)(b) of the 1971 Act."

Mr W. N. Denison, QC, and Miss K. R. Blundell-Jones for the prosecution; Mr Michael Thomas, QC, and Mr D. E. Thomas for the defendant.

Lord Wilberforce said he would dismiss the appeal and answer the certified questions as suggested by Lord Edmund-Davies.

LORD DIPLOCK, answering the questions in the manner with which the majority of the House agreed, said that the defendant had been doing work for the proprietor of a residential hotel. He considered that he had a grievance against the proprietor. One night he got very drunk and in the early hours of the morning decided to revenge himself on the proprietor by setting fire to the hotel, in which some 10 guests were living at the time. He broke a window and started a fire in a ground floor room. The fire was discovered and extinguished before any serious damage was caused. At his trial he said that he was so drunk at the time that the thought that there might be people in the hotel whose lives might be endangered if it were set on fire never crossed his mind.

He was indicted on two counts of arson under section 1(1) and (2) of the 1971 Act. That section read: "(1) A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged shall be guilty of an offence.

"(2) A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property, whether belonging to himself or another . . . (a) intending to destroy or damage any property or being reckless as to whether any property would be destroyed or damaged; and (b) intending by the destruction or damage to endanger the life of another or being reckless as to whether the life of another would be thereby endangered; shall be guilty of an offence.

"(3) An offence committed under this section by destroying or damaging property by fire shall be charged as arson."

Count 1 contained the charge of the more serious offence under section 1(2)—to which the defendant pleaded not guilty. He relied on his self-induced drunkenness as a defence, on the ground that the offence under subsection (2) was one of "specific intent" in the sense in which that expression had been used in speeches in the House in *R v Majewski* ([1977] AC 443). Count 2 contained the lesser offence under section 1(1), to which he pleaded guilty.

The recorder directed the jury that self-induced drunkenness was not a defence to count 1, and the jury convicted him. The recorder sentenced him to three years' imprisonment on count 1 but passed no sentence on count 2. The Court of Appeal held that her direction to the jury on the effect of self-induced drunkenness was wrong. They set aside the conviction on count 1 but left the sentence unchanged, as they considered it an appropriate sentence on count 2. It left the law on criminal damage and drunkenness in a state of some confusion.

The question certified recognized that under section 1(2)(b) there were two alternative states of mind as respected endangering the life of another, and that the existence of either of them on the part of the accused was sufficient to constitute the mens rea needed to convert the lesser offence under section 1(1) into the graver offence under 1(2). One was intention that a particular thing should happen in consequence of the actus reus—namely, that the life of another person should be endangered. (That was not relied on by the prosecution in the instant case.)

The other was recklessness as to whether that particular thing should happen or not. The same dichotomy of mentes reae, intention and recklessness, was to be found throughout the section; in subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) as well as in paragraph (b); and "reckless" as descriptive of a state of mind must be given the same meaning in each of them.

The 1971 Act had replaced almost in their entirety the many and detailed provisions of the Malicious Damage Act, 1861. Its purpose was to revise the law on offences of damage to property.

In the 1861 Act the word consistently used to describe the mens rea that was a necessary element in the multifarious offences the Act created was "maliciously"—a technical expression, not readily intelligible to juries, which became the subject of considerable judicial exegesis culminating in *R v Cunningham* ([1957] 2 QB 396), a judgment of the Court of Criminal Appeal which approved, as an accurate statement of the law, what had been said by Professor Kenny in the first edition of his *Outlines of Criminal Law*, 1902: "In any statutory definition of a crime, malice must be taken . . . as requiring either (1) an actual intention to do the particular kind of harm that in fact was done; or (2) recklessness as to whether such harm should occur or not (ie, the accused has foreseen that the particular kind of harm might be done and yet has gone on to take the risk of it)."

In that passage Professor Kenny was defining for the benefit of students the meaning of "malice" as a term of art in criminal law. To do so he used ordinary English words in their popular meaning, including "recklessness", the noun derived from the adjective "reckless", of which the popular or dictionary meaning was careless, regardless, or heedless, of the possible harmful consequence of one's acts. It presupposed that if thought were given to the matter by the doer before the act was done, it would have been apparent to him that there was a real risk of its having the relevant harmful consequences; but, granted that, recklessness covered a whole range of states of mind from failing to give any thought at all to whether or not there was any risk of those harmful consequences, to recognizing the existence of the risk and nevertheless deciding to ignore it.

Conscious of that imprecision in the popular meaning of recklessness as descriptive of a state of mind, Professor Kenny was at pains to indicate by the words in brackets the particular species within the genus: reckless states of mind that constituted "malice" in criminal law. That parenthetical restriction on the natural meaning of recklessness was necessary to an explanation of the meaning of the adverb "maliciously" when used as a term of art in the description of an offence under the 1861 Act (which was the matter in point in *Cunningham*); but it was not directed to and consequently had no bearing on the meaning of "reckless" in section 1 of the 1971 Act. To use it for that purpose could only be misleading.

The restricted meaning which the Court of Appeal in *Cunningham* had placed on "maliciously" where the prosecution did not rely on an actual intention of the accused to cause the damage that was in fact done, called for a meticulous analysis by the jury of the thoughts that passed through the mind of the accused at or before the time he did the act that caused the damage, in order to see on which side of a narrow dividing line they fell. If it had crossed his mind that there was a risk that someone's property might be damaged but, because his mind was affected by rage or excitement or confused by drink, he did not appreciate the seriousness of the risk or trusted that good luck would prevent its happening, that state of mind would amount to malice in the restricted meaning placed on the term [in *Cunningham*]; whereas if, for any of those reasons, he did not even trouble to give his mind to the question whether there was any risk of damaging the property, that state of mind would not suffice to make him guilty of an offence under the 1861 Act.

Neither state of mind seemed to be less blameworthy than the other; but if the difference between the two constituted the distinction between what did and what did not in legal theory amount to a guilty state of mind for the purposes of a statutory offence of damage to property, it would not be a practicable distinction for use in a trial by jury. The only person who knew what the accused's mental processes were was the accused himself—and probably not even he could recall them accurately when the rage or excitement under which he acted had passed, or he had sobered up if he were under the influence of drink at the relevant time. If the accused gave evidence that because of his rage, excitement or drunkenness the risk of particular harmful consequences of his acts simply did not occur to him, a jury would find it hard to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that his true mental process was not that, but was the slightly different mental process required if one applied the restricted meaning of "being reckless as to whether" something would happen, adopted in *Cunningham*.

His Lordship could see no reason why Parliament, when it decided to revise the law on offences of damage to property, should go out of its way to perpetuate fine and impracticable distinctions such as those, between one mental state and another. One would think that the sooner they were got rid of, the better.

When cases under section 1(1) of the new Act first came before the Court of Appeal, the question as to the meaning of "reckless" in that subsection appeared to have been treated as soluble simply by posing and answering what had by then, unfortunately, become an obsessive question among English lawyers: was the test of recklessness "subjective" or "objective"? The first two reported cases, where judgments were given off the cuff were *R v Briggs*, reported in a footnote to the second, *R v Parker* (Daryl) ([1977] 1 WLR 600). Both classified the test of recklessness as "subjective". That led the court in *Briggs* to say: "A man is reckless in the sense required when he carries out a deliberate act knowing that there is some risk of damage resulting from that act but nevertheless continues in the performance of it."

That left over the question whether the risk of damage might not be so slight that even the most prudent of men would feel justified in taking it, but it excluded that kind of recklessness that consisted of acting without giving any thought at all to whether or not there was any risk of harmful consequences of one's act. *Parker*, however, opened the door a chink by adding, as an alternative to the actual knowledge of the accused that there was some risk of damage resulting from his act and his going on to take it, a mental state described as "closing his mind to the obvious fact" that there was such a risk.

R v Stephenson ([1979] 1 Q B 695), the first case where there was full argument, though only on one side, and a reserved judgment, slammed the door again on any less restricted interpretation of "reckless" as to whether particular consequences would occur than that originally approved in *Briggs*. The judge had given the jury the direction on the meaning of reckless approved in *Parker*. The argument for the appellant (a tramp), on the appeal was that that let in an "objective" test whereas the test should be entirely "subjective". It was buttressed by copious citation from previous judgments in civil and criminal cases where "reckless" or "recklessness" had been used by judges in various contexts.

The judgment of the court contained an analysis of a number of the cited cases, mainly in the field of civil law. The court reached its conclusion by making the assumption that although Parliament in replacing the 1861 Act by the 1971 Act had discarded the word "maliciously" as descriptive of the mens rea of the offences of which the actus reus was damaging property, in favour of the more explicit phrase "intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed", it nevertheless intended the words to be interpreted in precisely the same sense as that in which the single adverb "maliciously" had been construed by Professor Kenny in the passage subsequently approved in *Cunningham*.

His Lordship saw no warrant for making any such assumption in an Act whose declared purpose was to revise the existing law on offences of damage to property, not to perpetuate it. "Reckless" as used in the new statutory definition of the mens rea of those offences was an ordinary English word. It had not by 1971 become a term of legal art with some more limited esoteric meaning than that which it bore in ordinary speech—a meaning which surely included not only deciding to ignore a risk of harmful consequences resulting from one's acts that one had recognized as existing, but also failing to give any thought to whether or not there was any such risk in circumstances where, if any thought were given to the matter, it would be obvious that there was.

If one was attaching labels, the latter state of mind was neither more nor less "subjective" than the first. But the label solved nothing. It was a statement of the obvious; mens rea was, by definition, a state of mind of the accused himself at the time he did the physical act that constituted the actus reus of the offence: it could not be the mental state of some non-existent hypothetical person.

Nevertheless, to decide whether someone had been "reckless", as distinguished from his actually intending such harmful consequences to follow, did call for some consideration of how the mind of the ordinary prudent individual would have reacted to a similar situation.

Even if one ascribed to "reckless" only the restricted meaning adopted in *Stephenson* and *Briggs* of foreseeing that a particular kind of harm might happen and yet going on to take the risk of it, it involved a test that would be described in part as "objective" in current legal jargon. Questions of criminal liability were seldom solved by simply asking whether the test was subjective or objective.

In his Lordship's opinion, a person charged with an offence under section 1(1) of the 1971 Act was "reckless as to whether or not any property would be destroyed or damaged" if (1) he did an act which in fact created an obvious risk that property would be destroyed or damaged and (2) when he did the act he either had not given any thought to the possibility of there being any such risk or had recognized that there was some risk involved and had nonetheless gone on to do it. That would be a proper direction to the jury; cases in the Court of Appeal which held otherwise should be regarded as overruled.

Where the charge was under section 1(2) the question of the accused's state of mind must be approached in stages, corresponding to paragraphs (a) and (b). The jury must be satisfied that what the accused did amounted to an offence under section 1(1), either because he actually intended to destroy or damage the property or because he was reckless (in the sense described) as to whether it might be destroyed or damaged. Only if they were so satisfied must the jury go on to consider whether the accused also either actually intended that the destruction or damage to the property should endanger someone's life or was reckless (in a similar sense) as to whether a human life might be endangered.

In the instant case, the first stage was eliminated by the defendant's plea of guilty to the charge under section 1(1). Furthermore he himself gave evidence that his actual intention was to damage the hotel in order to revenge himself on the proprietor. On the charge under section 1(2) the prosecution had relied on his having been reckless whether the lives of any of the residents would be endangered. His act of setting fire to the hotel was one which the jury were entitled to think created an obvious risk that the residents' lives would be endangered; and the only defence with which their Lordships were concerned was that the defendant had made himself so drunk as to render him oblivious of that risk.

If the only mental state capable of constituting the necessary mens rea for an offence under section 1(2) were that expressed in the words "intending by the destruction or damage to endanger the life of another", it would have been necessary to consider whether the offence was to be classified as one of "specific" intent for the purposes of the rule of law affirmed and applied by the House in *Majewski*; and that it plainly was. But that was not a relevant inquiry where "being reckless as to whether the life of another would be thereby endangered" was an alternative mental state capable of constituting the necessary mens rea of the offence with which he was charged.

The Lord Chancellor's speech in *Majewski*, with which Lord Simon, Lord Kilbrandon and his Lordship had agreed, was authority that self-induced intoxication was no defence to a crime in which recklessness was enough to constitute the necessary mens rea. So in the instant case the fact that the defendant was unaware of the risk of endangering the lives of hotel residents owing to his self-induced intoxication would be no defence if that risk would have been obvious to him had he been sober.

The Court of Appeal had regarded the case as turning on whether the offence under section 1(2) was one of "specific" or "basic" intent. Following a recent Court of Appeal decision by which they were bound—*R v Orpin* ([1980] 70 Cr App R 306)—they held that the offence under section 1(2) was one of "specific" intent in contrast to that under section 1(1), which was of basic intent. That would be right if the only mens rea capable of constituting the offence were an actual intention to endanger the life of another. For the reasons given, however, classification into offences of "specific" and "basic" intent was irrelevant where being reckless as to whether a particular harmful consequence would result from one's act was a sufficient alternative mens rea.

The recorder's summing up was not a model of clarity. Contrary to the Court of Appeal's view, she was right in telling the jury that in deciding whether the defendant was reckless as to whether the lives of hotel residents would be endangered, the fact that, because of his drunkenness, he failed to give any thought to that risk was irrelevant. But there were other criticisms of the summing u[p] made by the Court of Appea[l] which the House had very properl[y] not been invited to consider since it made no practical dif[ference] to the defendant whethe[r] the appeal was allowed or no[t]. His Lordship would dismiss th[e] appeal.

He would give the followin[g] answers to the certified question[s]: (a) If the charge of an offenc[e] under section 1(2) of the 197[1] Act was framed so as to charg[e] the defendant only with *intendin[g]* by the destruction or damag[e] [of the property] "to endang[er] the life of another", evidence o[f] self-induced intoxication could b[e] relevant to his defence. (b) If th[e] charge was, or included, a refe[r]ence to his "being reckless as t[o] whether the life of another woul[d] thereby be endangered", ev[i]dence of self-induced intoxicatio[n] was not relevant.

Lord Keith and Lord Rosk[ill] agreed with the reasoning an[d] answers to the certified question[s] proposed by Lord Diplock.

LORD EDMUND-DAVIES, co[n]curring in dismissing the appea[l] nevertheless considered that one [of] the certified questions should b[e] answered differently. His Lordsh[ip] profoundly disagreed with Lo[rd] Diplock's comments on the passag[e] from Professor Kenny. He use[d] lawyers' words in a lawyer's sens[e] to express his distillation of a[n] important part of the establishe[d] law relating to mens rea, and di[d] so in a manner accurate not onl[y] in respect of the law as it stood in 1902 but also as it had bee[n] applied in countless cases eve[r] since.

And it was well known that th[e] 1971 Act was in the main the wo[rk] of the Law Commission which, [in] their Working Paper No 31 (197[0]) defined recklessness by saying: "[A] person is reckless if, (a) knowin[g] that there is a risk that an eve[nt] may result from his conduct [or] that circumstances may exist, [he] takes that risk, and (b) it is u[n]reasonable for him to take [it] having regard to the degree a[nd] nature of the risk which he kno[ws] to be present." It was surely wi[th] that contemporaneous definiti[on] and the much respected decision [in] *Cunningham* in mind that [the] draftsman proceeded to his task [of] drafting the 1971 Act.

Therefore, unlike negligen[ce] which had to be judged obje[cti]vely, recklessness involved fo[re]sight of consequences, combi[ned] with an objective judgment of [the] reasonableness of the risk tak[en]. And recklessness must relate [to] foresight of risk of the partic[ular] kind relevant to the charge p[re]ferred, which, for the purpose[s of] section 1(2), was the risk of [en]dangering life and nothing ot[her] than that. In the absence [of] exculpatory factors the defenda[nt's] state of mind was therefore [all] important where recklessness [was] an element in the offence char[ged]. The task of examining the prop[osi]tion that ascertainment of [the] state of mind known as "reckl[ess]ness" was a *subjective* exer[cise] had been performed by Lord [Jus]tice Geoffrey Lane in *Stephen[son]* and that was the view expre[ssed] by the recorder herself w[hen] citing *Briggs*. She directed [the] jury at one stage in the h[ope] that ". . . it may be the most [help]ful function that I can perf[orm] if I read to you the most re[cent] (I hope) definition of 'reck[less]ness' by a superior court".

His Lordship did not share [Lord] Diplock's view of what *Maje[wski]* was authority for. The Lord C[han]cellor was dealing simply [with] crimes of basic intent, and [reck]lessness as an element in cr[imes] of specific intent was, his L[ord]ship was convinced, never w[ithin] his contemplation. The Cour[t of] Appeal were right in quashing [the] conviction under section 1([2]) and substituting a finding of g[uilty] of arson contrary to section [1(1)] and (3) of the 1971 Act.

It had recently been predi[cted] that following *Majewski* all cr[imes] of recklessness except mu[rder] would now be held to be cr[imes] of basic intent (Glanville [Wil]liams's *Textbook of Criminal L[aw]* 1978, page 431). That prop[hecy] had been promptly fulfilled by [the] majority of their Lordships, with the progressive displacem[ent] of "maliciously" by "in[ten]tionally or recklessly" in statu[tory] crimes, that would surely be [the] effect of the majority decisio[n in] the present appeal—a result w[hich] his Lordship regretted, for [its] consequence was that, how[ever] grave the crime charged, if r[eck]lessness could constitute its m[ens] rea, the fact that it was com[mit]ted in drink could afford [no] defence. It was a very long [time] since we had so harsh a law [in] this country. His Lordship c[ould] not agree that their Lordshi[ps'] majority decision should become the law of the land. [He] would, however, dismiss [the] appeal.

His Lordship would answer [the] certified question by say[ing]: "Yes, evidence of self-ind[uced] intoxication can be relevant [both] to (a) whether the defen[dant] *intended* to endanger the lif[e of] another and to (b) whether [the] defendant was *reckless* as [to] whether the life of another w[ould] be endangered, within the mea[ning] of section 1(2)(b)."

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metrop[oli]tan Police; Gordon & J[...] Morton.

Regina v Lawrence

The Court of Appeal certified [that] a point of law of general pu[blic] importance was involved in [the] decision, namely,

"1. Is mens rea involved in [the] offence of driving recklessly?

2. If yes, what is the mental [ele]ment required?

3. Is the following on a cha[rge] of driving recklessly a pr[oper] direction: 'A driver is guilty [of] driving recklessly if he delibera[tely] disregards the obligation to d[rive] with due care and attention o[r is] indifferent as to whether or [not] he does so and thereby cre[ates] a risk of an accident which [a] driver driving with due care [and] attention would not create'?"

Lord Diplock gave the foll[ow]ing answers, with which all [the] members of the House agree[d]:

1. Mens rea is involved in [the] offence of driving recklessly.

2. The mental element requ[ired] is that before adopting a man[ner] of driving that in fact invo[lved] an obvious and serious risk [of] causing physical injury to so[me] other person who may hap[pen] to be using the road or of do[ing] substantial damage to prope[rty] the driver has failed to give [any] thought to the possibility of th[ere] being any such risk, or, hav[ing] recognized that there was so[me] risk involved, has nonethe[less] gone on to take it.

3. The direction in (*R v Mur[phy]* [1980] 1 QB 434), [which is] the terms set out in questio[n 3] framed by the Court of App[eal] is wrong in certain respects.

In *Hurley v Mustoe* (March 1[...]) Miss Mary O'Dwyer appeared [...] Miss Caroline Alton for [...] Hurley.

Two-year state backing for ICL: departments would be hit if firm ceased providing services

House of Commons

Some cheers greeted the announcement by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, that he will soon seek parliamentary approval for a guarantee for further facilities to be provided by the banks for International Computers Ltd, for up to £200m for up to two years.

Sir Keith Joseph (Leeds, North-East, C) said: The Government is a user on a substantial scale of ICL computers with equipment to a value of more than £300m supporting vital operations in some 30 departments, including defence, revenue assessment and collection, agriculture, health and social security.

Because of this dependence upon ICL's products we have therefore shared the concern expressed by the company's chairman at the annual general meeting on February 3 about the deterioration in its trading position. In reporting the results for the year to September 30, 1980, he indicated that there had been a sharp drop in profit in the second half of that year, that the company was currently trading at a loss and that adverse trading conditions could continue well into the current year.

However, given a revival in markets, the chairman said that ICL expected a significant improvement in the profitability of its operations.

The trading position of the company is, of course, essentially for its management, its shareholders and its bankers and it is to the banks that ICL looks primarily to maintain its credit facilities on a worldwide basis.

However, the Government has a special interest in ICL as a substantial customer for its products. To protect this special interest we have, therefore, given a positive response to a proposal that the Government should provide a limited, temporary measure of support for ICL.

This support for ICL, in addition to a contribution towards research and development which could be available under existing criteria, should give the company the chance to review its longer-term business opportunities.

I am glad to be able to say in this context that the company's principal banks are continuing their support for the company in an amount of £70m.

I therefore intend to seek from the House at the earliest opportunity its authority to provide a guarantee for further facilities to be provided by banks for ICL under Section 8 of the Industry Act, 1972.

The terms I will be proposing to the House will be for a guarantee of up to £200m for a period of up to two years. Such a guarantee will not lead to any public expenditure unless it is called. I emphasize that it will be a limited amount and for a limited time.

Mr John Garrett, an Opposition spokesman on industry (Norwich, South, Lab): We welcome the statement as far as it goes. It is always good to see Government intervention in industry, even if only as a result of ad hoc pressures and under duress.

The root causes of ICL's difficulties are the high value of the pound for an industry which exports half its output, the effect of high interest rates on high borrowings and decline in domestic demand because of the capital investment slump, all factors caused or worsened by Government economic policies.

The industry receives less in state support, particularly for research and development, than its competitors in other countries.

The sale by NEB of ICL shares on Government instructions was misguided since ICL is now back in a situation where it should be taken over, even on the present Government's criteria, for rescue. Is it true that Sperry Univac are waiting to take it over for a mere £80m? That would be a disaster for high technology in this country in an area in which we have to have a substantial presence to succeed.

Why do the Government lurch from one exception to another in this as in every other area of policy?

Sir Keith Joseph: The company has been subject to the same market and economic conditions as all other companies in this country. There has, in particular, been a sharp downturn in recent months in world demand for computers, particularly large ones, and ICL has experienced the same downturn as many other competing companies.

The record of Government intervention in this country has not been a happy one.

I have no apology for the fact that the NEB, under the general policy of the Government that it should dispose of assets, has disposed of shares in ICL at a time when the profits and prospects of ICL were, as the market judged, very good.

Mr Peter Tapsell (Horncastle, C): The Secretary of State has said that ICL would look to the banks for support, but the consequence of the [illegible] which the banks will have to maintain between capital and advances and the effect of the £400m excess profits tax on banks has been to reduce by £6,000m the amount which commercial banks have available to lend to the private sectors of industry and agriculture.

Is it sensible to drive private industry deeper into the ground and force them to go to state aid rather than the commercial banking sector?

Sir Keith Joseph: The banks have to make a judgment about the amount of money they will put into a company. In view of the sharp recession in world demand for large computers, they were entitled to make that judgment. I have no reason to believe that the general background has anything to do with this case.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): This is a wise move. Will he accept our congratulations for discarding rhetoric and coming to terms with business reality, especially as he has recognized that while the banks will supply £70m of support, the Government have offered up to £200m. That is very proper in this case.

Sir Keith Joseph: The decision resulted from the dependence of many Government departments upon the service provided by ICL. It would have been more expensive to the taxpayer had that service come to an end. That is why, in this special case, this decision has been made. What the Government is providing is not equivalent to what the banks are providing.

Mr Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove, C): Will the £200m form part of the PSBR?

Sir Keith Joseph: No, a guarantee does not form part of the PSBR until and unless any part of it is called.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby, Soc Dem): This is further evidence that the Government has at last dropped some of the ideological baggage that it brought into office with it.

It is a typical example of the damage that has been done to British industry by governments coming into office, forcing retraction on public investment in industry and then having to come back a short time later to put that public investment back.

Why has the NEB which was successful previously, not been involved this time? What steps is the Government going to take to make sure that ICL is going to be put back on the right track again?

Sir Keith Joseph: I do not apologize in any way for believing that the less that government and taxpayers get involved in the affairs of private business the better. The job of government is to create a framework.

There are nationalized industries and public agencies which are occasionally suppliers to the Government. The Government, in the interests of the taxpayers, want to allow them to continue to provide the service they are providing at the moment, while that remains a sensible decision. I do not see any ideological transformation.

As to the NEB, we stick to our policy that the proper behaviour of the NEB is to dispose of as many of their existing assets as practicable and embark on new ones only in partnership with private enterprise.

Mr Peter Emery (Honiton, C): Will he ensure that if at any time other industries of this strategic nature come to him, he will use the same method under section 8 of the Industry Act?

Sir Keith Joseph: He seeks to tempt me down a path I do not find inviting because there will be many different interpretations of the word "strategic".

This decision was made on the basis that ICL is an important supplier to the Government. The consequence, as we see it at the moment, of anything other than continued service, while that remains sensible, would be damaging to the taxpayer.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C): Is he satisfied that the buying he has referred to by Government departments and nationalized industries is on a substantial enough scale to consider giving some direction to those departments and nationalized industries to buy British from ICL in future to a greater degree?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has placed a number of orders recently, including one which must interest MPs with ICL. Within the past few days the company has taken three major orders from leading companies in Britain, France and Australia against heavy competition.

Mr Michael Grylls (North West Surrey, C): I warn the Secretary of State in the strongest possible terms against going down the path Labour went with British Leyland and taking shares in the company. That proved to be totally disastrous.

Sir Keith Joseph: I heed what Mr Grylls says. We are not taking up any equity.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): How can we be certain the guarantee will be temporary and limited? Experience has shown us that once we get involved in these matters more public funds tend to get committed.

Sir Keith Joseph: We are all very well aware of the dangers. The guarantee lapses after two years.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C): Does not the whole question of ICL having to turn to the Government for a guarantee to enable them to borrow from the banks draw a major question mark over the management of ICL?

Does the Secretary of State propose to impose one or two directors on the board of ICL?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government and the banks will naturally keep a close eye on the company's performance throughout the duration of the guarantee.

Taxes go higher to get interest rates lower

If the Government had followed the economic course of the last government it would be on the way to the International Monetary Fund by now, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during exchanges with Mr Denis Healey, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was deputizing for Mr Michael Foot during question time.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab) had asked her: Does she feel that her economic policies have produced the results she intended?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): Perhaps he would wait a little longer (Labour cries of "Oh").

Mr Denis Healey (Leeds, East, Lab): Since it is clear that the Budget has added massive new burdens to British industry by raising the exchange rate 4½ per cent compared with where it was at the beginning of the month, and by increasing the price of energy for industry, will she give industry the little psychological boost she promised on television the other day by cutting the minimum lending rate by at least a further 2 per cent, and by tabling an amendment to the Finance Bill to cut the price of diesel fuel, which is a third higher than in France and a half higher than in Germany?

Mrs Thatcher: No. If the level of public expenditure which Mr Healey had planned was in operation, there would have been even higher taxes raised, and far higher interest rates than prevail now.

Mr Healey: On the level of public expenditure, the Prime Minister cannot go on attacking the previous Government for failing to cut public expenditure when she poses as a Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher: We have cut public expenditure down well below what he left—well below what he had planned—and had we been on his course, we would have been on the way to the IMF by now. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): Has she seen reports that the Shell oil company are intending to increase petrol prices by 5p in addition to the 20p imposed by the Budget?

In view of the Prime Minister's known concern for the welfare of rural communities, is she still determined to retain the 20p increase in the Budget as well as the 5p threatened by Shell and other oil companies?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Hamilton and many other MPs are only too anxious to increase public expenditure. If that is so, we have to meet the public expenditure already agreed.

Even the taxes which the Chancellor has proposed are not sufficient for the purpose. We have to raise another £10,300m because we have decided the top priority for industry was to get down interest rates, and they are down by 5 per cent from their peak.

Mr John Ward (Poole, C): Has she seen the report in *The Daily Telegraph* that the level of redundancy pay of miners may go up to £12,000?

Is she not concerned that these and other such payments by nationalized industries compared so badly with what the private sector can afford where the minimum statutory on the best figures given, is £2,900. Is she not concerned that this money can only come from the private sector which is already hard pressed?

Mrs Thatcher: I can understand some of the resentments caused by redundancy payments in some of the nationalized industries.

But I do believe it is to the benefit and advantage of this country that we reduce the number of mines which are loss making so that we can reduce the price of coal, which would help reduce the price of electricity.

The increased redundancy payments are designed so that we have some of the mines which are producing coal at very high prices, going out of action, which will be to our benefit.

These redundancy payments are not wholly mineworkers' redundancy. The total embodies payments under three Acts.

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield, East, Lab): Considering that Britain's biggest engineering company GKN have lost in the region of £100m (shouts of "wrong") and Britain's biggest chemical company, ICI, have announced losses for the year, would she consider what the Government can do before every industry in this country is bankrupt?

Mrs Thatcher: Certainly a number of engineering firms including GKN have reported bad results. They would be in a better position if the 1,500,000 cars sold in this country last year had included sales of far more British cars. That would have gone through to the steel and engineering industry.

The best thing that can help companies would be for more people to buy British.

Mr Denis Healey: Since GKN and ICI have attributed their appalling results largely to Government policy on interest rates and the exchange rate, will the Prime Minister take action to bring down both since interest rates in real terms are now substantially higher than they were a year ago and the exchange rate has risen by 4½ per cent in the last few weeks?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think Mr Healey is the right person to give advice on exchange rates bearing in mind he brought Britain's exchange rate down to an all-time low of $1.55.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C): Will the Prime Minister remind the Opposition and some of her own honourable friends that if we are to maintain and extend the reduction in minimum lending rate we must curb Government borrowing. That means the hard and unpopular measures in the Budget.

Mrs Thatcher: That is so. We have to persuade people to lend to the Government and if we demand too much they will only give it at unusually high interest rates and that spills off to those in industry who wish to borrow as well.

It is vital for the future of investment and restocking that the interest rates be kept down. That does mean putting up taxes higher than we would otherwise wish and keeping expenditure down in future.

Progress by inquiry into dumping of fish

The team of officials and industry representatives investigating allegations of dumping of foreign fish in the United Kingdom had made good progress but had not yet completed its work, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in reply to questions.

Mr Patrick Wall (Haltemprice, C) said he hoped the minister was standing firm against the French and Germans.

At the moment (he said) fish merchants are complaining of a lack of fresh fish and trawlermen that the price is too low. How is the minister going to reconcile these before final agreement is reached on the common fisheries policy?

Mr Buchanan-Smith (Angus, North and Mearns, C): It is because we are concerned about the marketing of fish that the minister (Mr Peter Walker) has asked his marketing advisers to look into the question of marketing. This they are doing now.

This is in addition to the work of the team of officials investigating the dumping of imports. In both of these, work is now very much in hand.

He informed another questioner that the Government was in touch with the Dutch Government over the possible illegal export of fish to this country.

The main problem in relation to fish coming from Holland was related to the difference in the currencies between the two countries. It was this which was causing the imports more than anything else.

Mr Roy Mason, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, fisheries and food (Barnsley, Lab): When are we likely to learn the outcome of the discussions taking place on the unfair dumping of cheap fish?

Mr Buchanan-Smith: There was a meeting yesterday at which good progress was made. They hope to meet again in the early future.

Inshore fishing will be exclusive

There was no question of trading off fish against any other issue, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during questions about the negotiations for a common fisheries policy.

Mr Alexander Pollock (Moray and Nairn, C) called on the minister to ensure that there was no question of reaching a settlement that would allow foreign vessels to fish right up to our beaches, as the French had recently demanded?

Mr Buchanan-Smith: I can give that absolute assurance. In any negotiation and any agreement, we must not only ensure that there is adequate exclusive access for our vessels, but also preference beyond that zone of exclusive access.

Mr Roy Mason, chief Opposition spokesman: The present state of the talks is deadlock. Can he assure the House and the industry about the pressure being brought to bear on the question of French access to our inshore waters and also to get the Canadian deal settled with the Germans?

Can he assure us that the Prime Minister at the talks in Maastricht next week, will not trade off these matters and will maintain the talks on a common fisheries policy on their merits alone?

Mr Buchanan-Smith: We are aware of all these pressures. There has never been any question of trading off fish against any other issue. Fish is important for the United Kingdom and is a matter that must be dealt with on its own merits.

Wide inquiry into loss of fishing vessel

The Department of Trade had ordered a preliminary inquiry into the presumed loss off the northern coast of Scotland of the fishing vessel Celerity from Buckie, Banffshire, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, announced.

He said the community of Buckie which relied so much on the traditional skill and fortitude of its fishermen had paid a particularly heavy and tragic price in recent times. He expressed the House's deepest sympathy with the families and relatives of the crew.

The inquiry would be wide-ranging, he added.

Royal Assent

Royal Assent was signified to the following Acts: Gas Levy, Consolidated Fund, Redundancy Fund, Industry, House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions, European Assembly Elections.

Government prepared to wind up BSC if it becomes necessary

The Government had not ruled out the possibility of introducing further legislation to wind up the British Steel Corporation if it became necessary, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, said when moving the second reading of the Iron and Steel Bill. But the Government preferred at this stage to adopt a more positive approach.

If the corporate plan failed, he also stated, the corporation might not be able to survive in its present form. Further closures and redundancies might be necessary, perhaps on a large scale. That would facilitate the transfer of BSC business to the private sector.

Sir Keith Joseph said that the Bill removed BSC's duty to supply iron and steel products and removed any limitation to the privatization of BSC's activities. The former provision would also enable BSC to withdraw from activities on which a profit could not be made if that should prove necessary.

It recognized the financial circumstances and past mistakes and losses by writing off £3,500m capital which was taxpayers' money which could never be recovered.

The BSC's prime aim as set out in the plan was to become internationally competitive. It aimed to regain its pre-strike domestic market share of 54 per cent and to increase exports.

The substantial reduction in personnel which had meant that some 50,000 jobs were shed in 1980 would have to continue and it was estimated that a further 20,000 jobs in the corporation would disappear this year.

That reduction would be achieved by improved efficiency, but further closures would also be necessary. BSC aimed to reduce energy costs which accounted for about 20 per cent of total costs by improved energy use.

The arrangement for introducing new flexibility into the pricing arrangements of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales would help to reduce the corporation's energy costs. Capital investment would be limited to the completion of schemes in progress and to essential new items.

Mr MacGregor had described the plan as optimistic. He was right, because what happened depended to a large degree on factors outside the control of the corporation.

Effective steel capacity in the EEC had exceeded production by some 40-50 tonnes a year since 1975. It was unlikely that there would be any sudden or significant improvement in capacity utilization in Europe as a whole.

Excess capacity had kept European steel prices down at levels below those of 1978-79. BSC had had to respond to that competition despite inflationary pressures at home.

There was no prospect of a dramatic improvement in European prices. The strength of sterling had put the United Kingdom steel industry at a competitive disadvantage.

Forecasts for 1981-82 were that steel demand in the United Kingdom would fall by 5 per cent, as compared with 1980-81, to 12.5m tonnes with a modest degree of recovery thereafter. Those adverse trading conditions and the history of massive losses over recent years made it essential that both the corporation and the Government monitored progress closely.

Because of the need to ensure that BSC competed fairly with private sector companies, Mr MacGregor had agreed to placing the corporation's business in competition with the private sector in separate Companies Act companies. That would serve to make the corporation's activities more transparent and pave the way for further privatization.

The write-off provision did not represent a commitment of additional funds. It simply recognized that a large part of the large sums invested by the taxpayer in BSC in the past was now worthless.

By any normal standards the BSC was bankrupt. The Bill would allow the corporation's activities to be reduced virtually to nil but the Government had stopped short of introducing a measure to provide for complete liquidation.

It did not think it appropriate at this stage to take such powers but it did not rule out the possibility of introducing further legislation to wind up the corporation if it became necessary. It had preferred at this stage to adopt a more positive approach.

While recognizing the possibility that the corporation might need to contract further the Government had demonstrated its support by providing for financial reconstruction which would enable BSC to pursue its ambitious plan unencumbered by past debt and with a lighter interest burden.

State corporation still essential

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford West, Lab) said whatever sacrifices steel workers made, and they had made many, and however good the management, unless the Government gave them the chance they were lost. It was against this background they must examine the Bill.

They were dealing with a major British industry at the centre of their manufacturing community and they must do all they could to support it.

The Opposition broadly supported the Bill and would not divide the House. They welcomed the finance aspects although they regretted the proposals had not been brought before them earlier. They opposed other clauses which were based on doctrinaire prejudices, against nationalized industries.

The Secretary of State had a doctrinaire opposition to the public sector, but was forced by the reality of life continually to come forward and support the public sector, as he had done with British Steel, British Leyland and now, ICL. The Opposition welcomed such moves because there were crucial industries if they were going to survive as a major industrial nation. They were industries they could ill-afford to do without.

The Opposition wanted to reaffirm its belief that a publically-owned BSC was still essential to the manufacturing base of our society.

The ground had been prepared for the de-nationalization of BSC. In October management authority had been decentralized into semi-independnet business within the corporation.

If the Government sold off the industry when it became profitable and the investment of public money began to bear fruit, the taxpayer did not get the return on his money which he would otherwise get over a number of years.

It was the Government's intention to see BSC broken up and sold off to the public sector. The Prime Minister had declared that once the corporation was profitable it should be denationalized at the appropriate time. That raised an interesting point.

It was said that the public money being allocated to BSC in the Bill was being given to the corporation. But if those vast sums were being spent with the ultimate objective of selling off parts of the corporation to private interests, it would be those interests, and not the British people, who would benefit from the taxpayers' money.

The Opposition's first priority was to save jobs, equally in the private and public sector. What was Sir Keith Joseph going to do to assist Duport at Llanelli? There was a justifiable case for giving state support to see that this company remained in being so that there were no wholesale redundancies in an area of high unemployment.

The concessions made on energy costs in the Budget went no way to help the current problem in the industry. They were the minimum that could have been done to assist the steel industry and in no way reflected its dependence on energy and would not offset the devastation created by the Government's economic policies. The steel industry needed a tariff reduction at source immediately.

Mr MacGregor was not taking the work people into his confidence in the way that he should be. It looked like a one-man band. The steel board was of no value at all.

The Secretary of State should tell Mr MacGregor that MPs wanted to see the corporation survive and prosper.

Mr MacGregor should try to make a fresh approach to the workers, to get an understanding with them, and show that this was not just a one-man band.

The Opposition would not vote against the Bill. The financial proposals were ones that they had been pressing for some time. But they would continue to oppose those sections which undermined the future of the BSC. Their objective was to see a thriving BSC and steel industry.

Without that major industrial base, Britain would not be independent as a major trading nation. They were playing for high stakes. The Opposition would not rest until they saw the steel industry was once more viable and profitable in the interests of the economy and the people.

Subsidies must be phased out

Mr Michael Grylls (North-West Surrey, C) said the Secretary of State had not been as forthcoming as MPs would have liked on the question of ultimate liquidation it the MacGregor plan did not succeed.

He should have taken the power to liquidate at the end of the day it that unhappy event should happen, as a signal to the taxpayer that there would be an end to this business.

The Bill did not go far enough to ensure that fair competition took place. There should not over the next few months be more and more private sector companies disappearing.

The Bill should be amended, providing clear powers of direction to the Secretary of State to ensure that where BSC competed with pri that where BSC competed with private sector companies that the corporation went ahead forthwith and formed Companies Act companies. The private sector was out in the cold with no taxpayers' money to support it.

Mr Denzil Davies (Llanelli, Lab) said that the Government had not heard the last of the Dupport steel works. The fact that it was closed did not mean that the fight would not go on to reopen it and preserve that asset for the nation.

Mr Richard Page (South-West Hertfordshire, C) said that for the first time there was a mood of realism through British Steel. The plan was based on exchange rates that could with variations mean literally tens of millions of pounds on the profit and loss of the corporation's plan.

Agreement had to be reached quickly with other EEC Governments to accept more sensible levels of plant production against capacity. That must be achieved to avoid a glut on the market.

Mr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell and Wishaw, Lab) said the steel industry had been placed in an environment where financial discipline could not operate. This had been destroyed by the Government's economic policies. In that context, it was useless to come along with sermons about the industry having to break-even by a certain date.

Mr Gerrard Neale (North Cornwall, C) said the sum that was to go into British Steel equated closely with the sum to be raised in the budget on petrol and diesel duty. There was even anger among many people about the sheer size of the sums going into the industry.

Mr Archibald Hamilton (Epsom and Ewell, C) said this was another chapter in the sorry tale which had lasted for some years of British Steel having to come back to the House and ask for more funds to keep going.

They had seen new plants and processes which the labour force had refused to implement and the industry beset by over-manning. The productivity of BSC relative to its competitors had been bad and remained so today. The BSC had been one of the worst examples of nationalization.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said that although there would be no division, his inclination would have been to object to the Bill. Unless the Government was willing to set up machinery to monitor decisions taken by the corporation then the public interest would not be served.

Mr Thomas Ellis (Wrexham, Soc Dem) said if there was one lesson to be learnt about 30 years' experience of the steel industry, it was that if responsibility lay anywhere other than on management, then it lay on the House. The issue was to do with the political structure of Britain. What was in the balance was the political governing system, which was utterly outmoded.

Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab) said that under no circumstances must capacity of 15 million tonnes a year be cut.

Other countries had adopted policies which meant their steel industries were flourishing and viable. They had not destroyed investment on the scale that had happened in this country for the good reason that steel was an industry fundamental to the economy of almost any advanced industrial country.

Mr John Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman on industry (Whitehaven, Lab) said it did not make much sense to mount a massive financial reconstruction of an industry and at the same time speak in terms which would damage the morale of the people in it.

The Opposition was not convinced that continual rundown was of necessity going to save the industry.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C) said cash-hungry, profitless, wealth-consuming industries were objectionable, whether in public or private ownership.

In private hands the agony was normally short-lived and the costs to the taxpayer minimal. In public hands, a loss-making industry was an agony which was protracted and intense, with the taxpayer paying. Whether a humane killer or a life support system was used, it was an expensive operation.

The task they had was to decide which to use, and hopefully to restore the industry to viability.

Actions that Britain should back in Europe were at the heart of many of the problems. First, the price of steel in themarket had to come back to a point where efficient steel makers could be profitable. Unless that was achieved there would be calls for protection and subsidy from steel makers who were currently unprotected and relatively unsubsidized, and that would be disaster.

Second, public subsidies had to be phased out across Europe. Questions about capacity would then be automatically adjusted. Third, there must be a package of social measures in the Community in order to lessen the impact on people who lost jobs during restructuring.

It would be particularly difficult to sell that package in countries which were still expanding production and dumping steel at great public expense.

When 50,000 jobs had been lost in the industry's public sector and another 20,000 were being proposed this year, it would be objectionable to ask the British industry ot bare a further heavy burden of closures while other people who had been producing subsidized capacity on the European market did not do their share of carrying thecan for misdeeds.

The Bill was read a second time.

Competition in EEC distorted by state aid

Some EEC countries were bringing forward substantial national aids to producers which perverted competition. This matter must be at the forefront of EEC Commission activities in coming months, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during questions.

Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C) had asked him to make a statement on the progress of his Department's efforts to ensure that the United Kingdom poultry industry did not continue to be at a disadvantage compared with other EEC poultry producers.

Mr Walker (Worcester, C): The Commission is expected to make proposals shortly to harmonize inspection standards and methods of charges. They are still considering certain information we sent them on state aids to processors of poultry meat in France.

As regards the aids to French farmers, the Commission have opened proceedings against France under the state aid provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Cockeram: That is a disappointing answer for the United Kingdom poultry industry. It offers no help with their interim problems. Midland Poultry Holdings in my constituency, one of the largest producers, has already been offered French birds at prices well below the cost of production in this country.

Mr Walker: Only a few weeks ago, I directed an additional £2m of aid to the industry because of its problems. I would have thought the industry would be pleased to know the Commission is bringing forward proposals to standardize both charges and standards of supervision.

Miss Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab): If the EEC industry is receiving subsidies directly or indirectly, why cannot the same subsidy be given over here so we can compete on equal terms? Do their hygiene standards meet ours?

Will he encourage compensation for poultry workers made redundant in the same way as dairy farmers receive compensation when they go out of business?

Mr Walker: Compensation for dairy farmers is so that they can transfer their activities to other forms of activity when there are surpluses in Europe.

The Government gave additional aid to the industry prior to the Commission's decisions being taken.

Perhaps one of the most important issues in the EEC is the degree to which some countries, particularly one, bring forward substantial amounts of national aids which pervert the whole standard of competition in Europe. That must be to the forefront of Comission activities in coming months.

Mr Mark Hughes, for the Opposition (Durham, Lab): Present arrangements for the poultry industry are disadvantageous to British producers. Unless he does something urgently, many of them will again be forced out of business, like the glasshouse growers.

Mr Walker: I have come forward with the money necessary to see the industry through this particular phase. If we now obtain unlike the previous Government, standardized methods of enforcement and payment, that will be a big step forward.

Growers must await reply from Dutch

The EEC Commission had repeatedly challenged the Dutch over their gas prices in the glasshouse sector and called on them to cease unfair practices, Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministery of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said at question time.

He added: We are expecting the Dutch reply to the Commission by the end of this month.

Mr Stanley Newens (Harlow, Lab): It is just not good enough continuing to wait. Does the minister recognize the crippling disadvantage that British growers are being placed under as a result of higher interest rates, the high rate of sterling, and the high cost of energy in comparison with the Dutch.

It would be better to pay the £8m subsidy proposed by the producers, costing £400 per head, than to allow people to become unemployed at a cost of £2,000 a head.

Mr Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare, C): We are seeking to do all we can within the legal framework of the Community. The fact that we are expecting an answer on this matter within a fortnight shows that the minister has been pressing this continually at every opportunity and will go on doing so.

Mr Mark Hughes, an Opposition spokesman (Durham, Lab): Another fortnight makes the problem of our glasshouse growers intolerable. Unless the Government introduces special aid for the growers there are going to be enormous numbers of bankruptcies.

Mr Wiggin: The growers when told that a decision would be made within two weeks, were glad to have a date set upon it.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 9.30: Private Members' motions on the present system of criminal justice and on the state's share of the nation's income.

MCA cuts 'a dangerous policy'

urther reductions in monetary ompensatory amounts would be a angerous policy to pursue, Mr eter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said uring questions on the EEC farm rice review.

When farm incomes had declined [illegible] per cent in real terms, it was xtraordinary that the Opposition hould be advocating revaluation f the green pound.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C): Mr Walker has much support in restoring prices to a realistic level for the British farmer. He hould indicate to Treasury ministers the necessity to look after the ountryside that just about still upports the Conservative Party.

Mr Walker (Worcester, C): On arm prices and the green pound, he Government is determined to ee that the position of British griculture is protected in the current negotiations. Naturally we ust have a degree of interest in he CAP as a whole and the cost of he budget.

I assure him it is the Government's intention to see that British agriculture continues to prosper.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford, South, Lab): There is considerable unemployment in the poultry industry and considerable bankruptcies looming-up. Will he take the opportunity of the price review to do something about it?

Mr Walker: I welcome his interest in employment in the agricultural industry such as in the poultry sector. I only hope that interest is shown by the Labour Party as opposed to its constant demands—demands for large green pound revaluations which do great damage to British agriculture.

Mr Peter Mills (West Devon, C): He should remain firm on no revaluation. There should be a fair return to British producers. He should try and prise open the mind of the shadow minister of agriculture (Mr Mason) to know exactly where the Opposition stand because the rumours are they want revaluation of the green pound and no increases in prices to farmers which would be disastrous to the producer, consumer, and those who work in the meat plants.

Mr Walker: It is extraordinary in a situation where farm incomes in real terms went down 24 per cent, that a major political party should be advocating those incomes should be reduced still further.

Mr Roy Mason, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Barnsley, Lab): On the basis of a positive MCA of about 18 per cent, are we not denying our consumers cheaper food and at the same time swelling our contribution to the EEC budget? Is he saying in no circumstances in the present review is he going to agree to revaluation of the green pound?

Mr Walker: I am saying in the period when the previous Government had negative MCAs between 24 per cent and 45 per cent, food prices in this country went up twice as fast as under this Government. Positive MCAs do not improve farm prices at the farm gate at all.

What he is seemingly advocating is they should be reduced still further. That is a dangerous policy to pursue.

Counteracting piracy in business names

House of Lords

The Government suffered a defeat when the first amendment considered at the resumed committee stage of the Companies (No 2) Bill. The amendment, to restore to the Bill the Business Names Act 1916 so that the Registrar of Companies would have to maintain a register of business names, was carried by [illegible] votes to 90—majority against the Government, six.

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran (L), who moved the amendment, said that piracy in business names and trademarks was a profitable international growth industry. The 1916 Act and the registry helped to prevent the fraud and malpractices rampant in United Kingdom trade, the export trade and business activities of many foreign companies.

Under the Bill, which provides new powers to deal with fraud, the Government seemed to have remained obdurate in its proposals to repeal the Act.

Confusion of trade names could arise accidentally. But the confusion was often caused deliberately and fraudulently.

There is (he said) an international industry where people set out to trade on names deliberately chosen to be like the trade names and trade marks of some well-known business, setting out to deceive and to mislead potential customers into the belief that their goods are connected with the business of another person or firm. This is known as trading on the goodwill of another company.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, for the Opposition, said that if the registry were abolished there would be no central register of unincorporated business and no access to information about a business except from the business itself. There was no reason the registry should not become self-financing. The search fee now was only fivepence.

Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary for Trade, said the proposal would be impracticable without considerable investment and extra staff. The Government, while believing that a central register could no longer be maintained, recognized the need for details of the ownership of businesses, particularly for the purpose of legal proceedings, to be available to the public.

Lord Ponsonby had referred to the possibility of putting up the cost of the present registration arrangements. Several speakers suggested that if the charge were raised to, say, £6 or even higher it would cover the present costs.

So it might, but the scale of operation at present relied upon was wholly inadequate. If the system were to be made effective the number of staff would have to be substantially increased.

Forty per cent or so of the entries in the present register of business names were thought to be defective.

To eliminate all these defects, something upwards of one million of the present entries would have to be investigated, their errors rectified, and, if necessary, the perpetrators of those errors taken to court. Was it really thought that the cost of all that operation should be placed upon the shoulders of the small businesses involved?

They were dealing only with small businessmen trading under names other than their own. The suggestion that they were doing away with a comprehensive register could not be sustained.

The committee stage was adjourned.

Peers to debate increase in petrol duty

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Progress on remaining stages of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on overseas' aid. Private Bill. Lloyd's Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Completion of remaining stages of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill. Ports (Financial Assistance) Bill, second reading.

Thursday: Debate on CAP price proposals and on livestock production in Ireland.

Friday: Private members' Motions on effect on Manchester of Government policies and on main line electrification.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Companies (No 2) Bill, committee (third day.)

Tuesday: Interpretation of Legislation Bill, committee Debate on the increase in petrol tax.

Wednesday: Debate on British Agriculture and on closed shop policy of some local authorities.

Thursday: Supreme Court Bill, report.

Damage from burst mains

If there was an escape from a water main the assumption should be that the public for whose benefit the pipe had been laid should pay, Lord Skelmersdale, a Lord in waiting, said during the committee stage of the Water Bill. The public should pay the private individual who suffered damage in these circumstances.

He moved a new clause providing that where an escape of water, however caused, from a communication pipe or main of statutory water undertakers caused loss or damage the undertakers, with certain exceptions, should be liable.

One of the exceptions was where the escape was wholly the fault of the person suffering the loss or damage or his servant, agent or contractor, in which case no liability would rest on the water undertakers.

The new clause was agreed to and the committee stage adjourned.

House adjourned, 8.46 pm.

Football

Liverpool's show in Sofia proves they have a future, not just a past

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

At some cost in injuries and fatigue, English and Welsh football clubs made a substantial impression on Europe this week. Two clubs go into today's semi-final round draws, both with excellent chances of going further. Liverpool, having beaten CSKA 1—0 in Sofia, reminded everyone at home and abroad that they were not just a team with a past, and Ipswich Town, comfortable 3—1 winners against Saint-Etienne, are now indisputably one of Europe's outstanding sides for the future.

With West Ham United recovering some of their dignity by beating Dynamo Tbilisi 1—0 in Georgia, only to lose 4—2 on aggregate because of an unusually weak home performance, and Newport County losing little of their glory although being beaten 1—0 by Carl Zeiss Jena, of East Germany, the night's defeats were sweetened by the satisfaction of work well done.

Liverpool returned from Sofia immediately after their gratifying 6—1 aggregate victory in the European Cup because Bob Paisley was anxious not to miss a day's training before tomorrow's Merseyside derby match against Everton at Anfield. Whether he had enough players for a five-a-side was debatable. McDermott was unable to play against CSKA because of a calf strain; Johnson pulled a hamstring and Ray Kennedy, Dalglish and Heighway were all hurt in a match that, ironically, was never physically demanding.

The gains, from a solid, practical performance in Sofia, where Johnson scored sufficiently early to knock all the defiance out of CSKA, who had begun 5—1 down, were diluted but not ruined by concern over injuries. Curiously, the return of Case, who had been out of favour, seems to have restored a better balance, and the improved reliability of Irwin, deputizing for Thompson, was encouraging considering that the player he often had to intercept was Djevisov, one of the quickest and most skilful centre-forwards in European football.

Liverpool would prefer to avoid Internazionale Milan in today's draw but have shown that despite some domestic difficulties they are capable of beating any of the other survivors over two legs. Better, ideally, to meet Inter in the final in Paris next May. The ability of the Italians to beat Red Star Belgrade in Yugoslavia by 1—0 on Wednesday confirmed that they could offer fierce competition while Bayern Munich, despite excellent European Cup results, are still in the process of developing their team.

Ipswich's 7—2 aggregate defeat of Saint-Etienne must have left the other successful clubs in the Uefa Cup hoping to avoid the team currently best in the Football League. Yet the 3—1 win at Portman Road did not entirely satisfy Bobby Robson, the manager, who suggested it was their weakest performance for two months. He is also concerned that, after more than fifty matches already this season, European ties make it more difficult to heal nagging injuries. Gates and Brazil were not fully fit on Wednesday, but are required to be pressed into action against Manchester United tomorrow.

At such times as this, the clubs involved in European games must question the value of a domestic season that is so long and demanding that teams cannot always give of their best in up to four different competitions. West Ham, who last Saturday played 120 minutes of a League Cup final against Liverpool, would add that they are under enough pressure without the difficulties endured in Moscow, where they were delayed for hours on their way to the Cup Winners' Cup tie in Tbilisi.

West Ham arrived back at Stansted at 7 am yesterday after a 12-hour journey. The best that could be said was that this was less than half the time it took to get to Tbilisi. John Lyall said his regret was that he had not been able to see Dynamo before the first leg at Upton Park. "Otherwise it could have been a different story", he said.

Semi-final referees

The Welsh referee, Clive Thomas, will take charge of one of the FA Cup semi-finals on April 11. He will handle the Tottenham v Wolverhampton game at Hillsborough, and Pat Partridge takes the Manchester City v Ipswich tie at Villa Park.

Rugby Union



Putting a kick in it: Blakeway, whose England place was in doubt until this week.

England need to be up on their toes to share title

By Richard Streeton

A close, high-scoring match, with England the winners, was the prediction of Bill Beaumont, the England captain, yesterday for the international with France at Twickenham tomorrow. Victory for France would give them the grand slam; an England win would bring them a share of the championship.

Beaumont was speaking after the England team had trained for nearly two hours at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill: "I think you will see quite a lot of points on the board but I am confident. We are loking good." He praised the character shown this season by England, who came from behind to claim both their wins against Scotland and Ireland. Without belittling the work of the England pack, he agreed there had been a little more emphasis this year on the England backs: "If you look at this season's championship tries, you will find that we have created all the best ones."

Beaumont said the present French side, with three good wins behind them, were slightly different from many of their predecessors: "They seem to have even less pattern about them than usual. They are very good in the loose with a marvellous back row, with Joinel the outstanding forward and Rives back to his old form." The French, he said, were rucking far more than they sometimes did. England would have to tighten their approach in the matter of touch-kicking and would have to apply pressure to the French half backs. They were aware of the potential of the French kickers and especially their ability to drop goals.

Beaumont's press conference, conducted with his customary patience, was only one reminder of how rugby has changed in recent years. During the training Blakeway and other forward stalwarts, for the benefit of photographers, lifted the Mini Metro the Rugby Union are raffling at Twickenham tomorrow. The England dressing room was also invaded by a freelance film crew making a film about ballet.

This was not quite as surprising as it may sound. A ballet entitled *The Dance of the Calcutta Cup* is being performed for charity in Edinburgh on April 16 before an invited rugby audience. It has been choreographed by Madame Lorna Antonini, who runs a Long Island ballet school and company and whose father, G. A. J. Rothney, was secretary of the Calcutta Rugby Club in 1877.

Last night the England players were watching a film of France's last match, that rather unsavoury physical game with Wales in Paris a fortnight ago. The French arrived in London yesterday evening after training in Paris and will again practice today, at Windsor.

Forgeries alert: Police fear that there could still be many forged tickets circulating for tomorrow's international between England and France at Twickenham. Over 1,000 "very good" forgeries of £2 North Terrace standing tickets have already been found, but now there might be similar forgeries for the South Terrace, police said.

Coventry feel the pinch

Coventry, having played only two home games since Christmas, are unhappy about Harlequins' refusal to switch tomorrow's fixture to avoid a clash with the televised England-France match. Coventry, feeling the financial pinch, offered to play tonight, Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon, to no avail.

Coventry are not even printing a programme for tomorrow, for they would not expect to cover the cost. But they can top up their coffers again over the last six weeks of the season, during which their lop-sided fixture list shows seven home games. They also look forward to fielding a more settled team over that period, with Huw Davies available and their casualty list clearing.

Mike Perry's attendance at the England under-23 squad training next weekend will interfere with Moseley's build-up for the John Player Cup semi-final on April 4. However, much of Moseley's attention next weekend will be on the Nottingham-Gosforth quarter-final tie, which affords a golden opportunity to watch their opponents in cup action just a week before the semi-final.

Birmingham, home to Loughborough Students tomorrow, have filled a blank date in their programme the following week with a renewal of their fixture with Cheltenham.

Cricket

Miller resumes active service and Athey gets his opportunity

Bridgetown, March 19

Geoff Miller will captain England for the first time in the four-day match against the Leeward Islands, starting in Montserrat on Saturday. Miller, appointed vice-captain in place of the injured Willis who returned home a month ago, takes over in the absence of Botham, who is standing down to rest strained muscles in his bowling arm.

Miller has not played any cricket since his appointment. He last appeared in the side in the first Test in Trinidad, which ended on February 18, two days before Willis returned. Apart from the Port of Spain Test—he was tried at number five and failed with scores of three and eight—Miller has played in only two other games in nine weeks. In the opening four-day match in Trinidad he took nine wickets against the Young West Indies and he also played against Trinidad.

Athey of Yorkshire, the replacement for Rose, will also have his first match with a chance of taking over the number three position which continues to prove one of the weak batting spots. Gatting was tried there in the third Test but managed only two and nought.

England, crushed by 298 runs yesterday and already two down in the series, desperately need to find some batting strength to back up Boycott, Gooch and Gower, the only men who have shown any form so far.

The Leeward Islands match will be the first that Botham has missed: his friend and Somerset colleague, Richards, qualified to play for the islands, will also be absent. Richards is to be married in his native Antigua on the last day of the game and Botham, as well as Garner, another of his Somerset colleagues, will be among the guests.

England have enjoyed three weeks of warm hospitality and virtually unbroken sunshine in Barbados but there was steady rain today as they packed their bags for the move to Montserrat. The trip looked likely to cause problems for the much-harassed party because of threatened industrial action by staff at Antigua Airport.

Botham has dismissed suggestions that the burden of captaincy is affecting his individual form. He has so far collected only 43 runs from the four innings he has played in the two Tests on this tour.

"I got seven wickets in this match and made a few runs in the first innings when things were going wrong", he said. "I'm quite happy. After all Viv Richards didn't get too many runs before this match and I'll just have to keep plugging away."

Botham made 26 in the England first innings of 122, and just a single in the second innings and his form generally, with only 12[illegible] runs from nine first class innings does not suggest he is justifying his place at number six in a middle order which is fragile and suspect.

Botham believes there is still something to hope for from the remaining two games: "I think the batting of Graham Gooch was magnificent and there were one or two other bonuses from David Gower and Peter Willey. We have got to be realistic. We are a young and inexperienced side playing the best in the world. It's going to be tough, but we have got to hang on in there and fight it out."

Rose assured: Brian Rose, the Somerset captain, who was sent home from the West Indies with an eye complaint, has been assured it should not affect his playing career. Rose said last night: "I might have to play in glasses, but even that is not certain. The specialist believes the trouble began with a blow in Australia a year ago, which cracked a cheekbone."

Jackman's date

Robin Jackman's benefit year will get under way at Crystal Palace's football ground on May 1, when he will captain Surrey in a 40-over floodlit cricket match against a "rest of the world" team which may include Clive Lloyd, Malcolm Marshall, Graeme Pollock and Clive Rice.

Real Madrid storm through

Real Madrid 2 Spartak 0

Madrid, March 10.—Real Madrid completed an all-Western European Cup semi-final lineup that includes Liverpool when they beat Spartak Moscow in a second-leg quarter-final tie tonight. The Russians came to Spain after a goalless first leg.

Isidro Diaz, a second-half substitute, hit both goals before a 110,000 capacity crowd, snuffing out Russian hopes of keeping a East European presence among the last four.

Real, six times winners of the cup, launched waves of attacks marshalled by their West German, Uli Stielike, against a defence which gave little ground and was quick to counter-attack.

Midway through the second half Yuri Gavrilov, of Spartak, tore away on the left but with a fine chance failed to beat the goalkeeper, Mariano Garcia-Remon. Three minutes later, when once again the defence was caught off guard, he shot wide.

Real promptly revived their pressure and with 21 minutes to go Isidro struck home a cross from the left through a packed goalmouth. Eight minutes later the Spartak goalkeeper, Rinat Dasaev, failed to hold a header from the menacing Carlos Santillana and Isidro scored from close in.—Reuter.

Last night's results

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final round, second leg: Real Madrid 2, Spartak Moscow 0 (Real Madrid win 2—0 on aggregate).
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bedworth 2, Corby 0.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round replay: Tooting and Mitcham 3, Bishop's Stortford 5 (after extra time).
RUGBY UNION: Neath 31, Newbridge 7; Henley 39, Orlando (US) 0.
RUGBY LEAGUE: Slalom Lager championship: Warrington 6, Workington Town 17.

Geddis is drafted in for Withe against Spurs

David Geddis, Aston Villa's £300,000 reserve striker, will deputize for the suspended centre forward, Peter Withe, against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane tomorrow. The former Ipswich Town player, who collected an FA Cup winners' medal at Wembley in 1978, admits that he is a "hit sluggish" after playing only three reserve games since he last replaced Withe on December 27.

Withe scored eight times in nine league matches before he was banned for two games by an FA disciplinary commission in Manchester on Wednesday, but Geddis's record is almost as impressive. He has scored three times in five league matches this season, including the winners against Wolverhampton Wanderers

Anglo-Scottish Cup ends after seven years

The Anglo-Scottish Cup, which has been in existence for seven years, has been suspended indefinitely. The decision, made yesterday after talks between English and Scottish league officials in London, stems from the reluctance of English first division clubs to take part. This season's Scottish entry consisted entirely of clubs from the Premier Division, but the English representatives were largely third and fourth division sides.

Jim Farry, the Scottish League secretary, said yesterday: "We *asked for a guarantee that* the English representation would consist of first division clubs. This could not be given, so it was a clear-cut decision taken by both leagues to suspend the competition."

Talks break down: The Southern League have pulled out of merger talks with the Isthmian League and instead will form their own south-east, south-west and midland premier divisions, provided the FA give their approval. The new system will operate from the beginning of the 1982-3 season and the Southern will cooperate with the Northern Premier League over the composition of the new midland division. The Alliance Premier League will increase to four the number of clubs to be relegated at the end of each season.

Anfield chairman proposes merger of League and FA

By Norman Fox

John Smith, the chairman of Liverpool, launched his campaign for the Football League Presidency yesterday with a proposal that the Football Association and the League should eventually merge. He said it would end difficulties that he claimed were inherent in having two organizations running the sport and that did not occur in countries where one organization controlled the game.

Mr Smith said he felt that the FA sometimes had an "amateurish approach". He hoped that *if he did succeed Lord Westwood,* who has announced his resignation, he would "bring a breath of fresh air" to the League, although he did not envisage that any merger would "swallow up the FA".

The Liverpool chairman is also anxious to overcome problems over sponsorship, advertising on shirts and televised football. He said there were far too many matches on television and this was "devaluing the game". His strong views on the frequency of Liverpool's appearances on television have led to the cameras being banned from a match at Anfield this season, partly because the board felt that the sponsors, Hitachi, were not being given enough opportunities to have their name on the players' shirts.

He described the television companies' decision not to screen games in which shirt advertising was used as "crazy" and not in line with policy on other sports in which sponsors' names were clearly visible. This was particularly worrying at a time "when football is desperately short of cash".

Should Mr Smith, a successful businessman, be elected, he will probably try to introduce the League to several ideas for raising money. "The time has gone when clubs could generate enough money through the turnstiles", he said. Peter Robinson, the Liverpool secretary, added that even his club could not pay its way from gate receipts alone, but *he said that present sponsorship* agreements, restricted to one year, created problems for a club with a £2m annual turnover and proposing to build a new grandstand at a cost of nearly £3m.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FOURTH DIVISION: Stockport County v York City.
RUGBY LEAGUE: Slalom Lager championship: Salford v Hull Kingston Rovers. Second division: Whitehaven v Rochdale Hornets.
RUGBY UNION: Bath v London Irish (7.15); Bedford v Saracens; Leicester v RAF (7.15); Northampton v Nuneaton; Pontypridd v Abertillery (7.0). Tour matches: Haslemere v Cadillac (France); Old Dunstonians v Rhodia (France).
ATHLETICS: AAA indoor under-20 championships and WAA intermediate and junior championships (at RAF Cosford).
BADMINTON: John Player all-England qualifying (at Wimbledon).
BILLIARDS: English amateur championship (at Grimsby).
SNOOKER: English amateur championship (South) (at Balham).

Boxing

Downes dines out on that chop to the chin

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

The tap on the chin from John L. Gardner that Osvaldo "Jaws" Ocasio fell for in the nineteenth second of the sixth round of their heavyweight bout at Wembley last Tuesday seems to have carried some hidden power. For it floored the former world middleweight champion, Terry Downes, who was still reeling from it at a Boxing Writers' Club lunch given yesterday in his and his former manager Sam Burns's honour.

Speaking at the lunch, Mr Downes said that the British Boxing Board of Control should have held a formal inquiry with the aid of a video to find out what happened when the Puerto Rican got off his stool reluctantly and Gardner walked up to him and tapped him on the chin. "They were frightened of what they might see". Mr Downes said.

"I was surprised when, immediately after the bout, the board said there would be no inquiry. From my position near the Puerto Rican's corner, where the incident took place, the punch seemed no more than a tender tap and "Jaws", who until then had given Gardner a pasting, revealed a set of toothless paws and went down. I have seen children playing ring-a-ring-a-roses fall down more convincingy.

The board, however, held impromptu talks with the help of Harry Gibbs, the referee, who maintained that a blow had landed and that that, together with Ocasio's exhaustion, sent him down. After the bout it was discovered that Ocasio had bronchitis. It would have been a far more *dignified exit, for the boxer and* boxing, if the Puerto Rican's corner had retired him because of his sudden affliction.

Nick Wilshire, the blue-eyed boy of amateur boxing, has turned professional, at 19. He has signed with Micky Duff and will be trained by George Francis in his Highgate gym. Wilshire will make his first appearance on April 2 at the Albert Hall.

"With Nick to lead the way we intend to renew professional boxing in the West of England" Mr Duff said. "We could do that now because we have a sufficiently good attraction."

Wilshire has been described by his manager as the best amateur to turn professional since Alan Minter. He won a silver medal at light-middleweight in the world junior championships at Yokohama and a European junior gold at Rimini. In the Moscow Olympics he was stopped in the quarter final round by Alexandr Koshkin of the Soviet Union, though later *in the year Wilshire gained* a majority verdict over the Russian.

Hagler defence: Marvin Hagler will probably defend his middleweight title against Ruben Pardo of Argentina in August, after meeting Vito Antuofermo in June. Pardo is ranked number one by the WBA number 10 by the WBC

Badminton

Plan for world-wide grand prix gets finishing touches

By Richard Streeton

A world-wide grand prix circuit is to be launched in 1982 by the International Badminton Federation, who are determined to keep the sport out of the hands of individual entrepreneurs. The finishing touches to the plan will be put by officials during next week's All-England championships, sponsored by John Player, at Wembley.

The intention is to link nine leading open championships on *three continents, with a grand* prix final taking place in December, 1982, for £30,000 prize money. Twelve men and 12 women will take part in the final made up by the 10 leading points scorers from the circuit together with two "wild card" invitations. The inaugural circuit will be for singles only, but doubles events will be included in later years.

The circuit will run from January to December, and the pilot scheme proposes that it would start with the Japanese Open, followed by similar tournaments in Taipei, Denmark, Sweden, and the All-England championships each year. There would then be a gap and, later in the year, the circuit would be resumed in order with the Scottish, West German, Dutch and Canadian Opens.

To qualify for the circuit, open events would have to have a minimum of £3,000 prize money and facilities for worldwide television. A complicated points-scoring system based on the prize money available and the tournament's standards will operate. The IBF are also to use a computer for the first time after next week's All-England to compile their first world rankings in similar fashion to tennis.

The IBF's new grand prix circuit already has the support of their member countries, but they appreciate the first year or two will be experimental. That is why *they have allowed for two "wild* card" entries at the finals. Though Indonesia, for instance, have expressed interest, their players might not necessarily qualify for the finals if they adhered to their present policy of seldom playing outside their own country.

China, too, are watching the IBF's plans closely. China's future in the game is bound up with the proposed merger between the IBF and the World Badminton Federation which is on the agenda next Monday at a special general IBF meeting in London. The Chinese, who are the main power among the WBF's 15 members, want the IBF voting system changed to one country, one vote, before they agree to join—one of several stipulations they have made. The IBF are so anxious to have China back in the fold that they are expected to agree to the changes.

Squash rackets

Jahangir hustles Zaman out of his title

Jahangir Khan, 17 years a[nd] three months old, beat the m[an] ranked No 1 in the world, Qam[ar] Zaman in 34 minutes at Stockt[on] last night. In doing so, he to[ok] away Zaman's Durham and Cle[ve]land Open title, sponsored [by] McEwans Lager, and won £1.4[...] neither of which will matter [to] him as much as the fact that [he] must now be regarded as the b[est] player from that land of brillia[nt] squash players, Pakistan.

It also confirmed him, desp[ite] what Geoff Hunt says, as t[he] British Open champion's ma[in] rival. Six months ago in t[he] Pakistan Open in Karachi t[he] youngster recovered from t[wo] games down to outsteady Zam[an] 9—6 in the fifth. It could j[ust] have been a one-off success: la[st] night suggested emphatical[ly] otherwise.

The heartbreaking fact for t[he] 1975 British Open champion [was] that he was beaten by a play[er] who was quicker to attack a[nd] more elastic in recovery, and w[ho] established a physical superiori[ty] that one cannot ever imagine bei[ng] reversed.

Jahangir plays his shot and [is] back on the tee in no tim[e.] Zaman is too outstanding a strok[e] maker not to have played a sh[ower] of sliced cross-court winners a[nd] nicks from deep positions, ev[en] under the greatest of pressure, b[ut] most of the time he was hustl[ed] and bustled about in the mo[st] disconcerting fashion.

Perhaps he nor as fit as [he] would like—he virtually conced[ed] in his match with Maqsood la[st] week—but on the other hand [he] looked sharp enough in his sem[i] final round tie against Brownle[e] and one was left with the ove[r]whelming impression that he[re] was a great player who had bee[n] overtaken. Jahangir said he w[as] surprised. Last time they ha[d] both played well, he said. Th[is] time he had, and Zaman had no[t.] The margin of the victor[y] though, stunning and left [no] room for doubt.

The crowd were so taken aba[ck] by the one-way traffic that the[y] made not a sound when Zama[n] produced a superbly sliced cros[s] court kill to ket in hand at 0—[..] in the second game. It initiate[d] his best spell of the match, whe[n] Jahangir eased a little and th[e] impudent winners began to flo[w] for Zaman.

He got to 7—7 but a long, har[d] rally which put Jahangir 8—7 [up] was crucial. Zaman tried to pin[ch] a quick winner immediately aft[er] that but put a backhand volle[y] into the tin. It cost him the gam[e] and the match was not long i[n] following.

Jahangir won 9-3, 9-7, 9-4.

CHICHESTER: Patrick International tournament, first round: R. Watson (SA) beat R. Mosley (GB), 9—[..], 9—1, 9—5; G. Award (Egypt) beat J. Le Lievre (GB), 1—5, 9—5, [..] 7—9, 9—1; G. Brumby (Australia) beat P. Kenyon (GB), 9—2, [..] 4—9, 9—2, 4—5; K. Shawcross (Australia) beat J. Easter (GB), 8—10, 9—1, 9—5, 6—6; A. A[..] (Egypt) beat M. Helal (Egypt), 9—[..] 9—3, 9—2.

Athletics

Truth about marathon man

By Paul Harrison

The great mystery of the unknown marathon man from Mevagissey was unravelled yesterday, with the result that the discovery of a new world-beating British athlete can be, regretfully, postponed.

Eyebrows shot skywards when the entry of Gary Davies for the Gillette London Marathon came off the computer. The entirely unknown man from Cornwall—who has, incidentally, a Welsh name but a Scottish qualification—had a reputed best time of 2 hours 10 minutes. This would have put him third in the British all-time rankings, and high in the world equivalent.

So who was this unknown, who would surely walk away with the London event on Sunday week? Christopher Brasher, a former Olympic gold medal winner and now the race director, told a startled press conference in London yesterday that he had telephoned Davies's home and, as Davies was in America, had spoken to his mother. Apparently, Davies, at the tender age of 23, had run eight marathons and he did indeed have a best time of 2 hours 10 minutes. It had been done at Butlins.

I spoke to Davies yesterday. He had been on holiday in America and his mother had put in his entry. Davies, a painter and decorator who has also been a Redcoat at Butlins, has never run a marathon. His mother, in estimating his time, had taken his training time for 10 miles and multiplied it.

Davies, who thought that he might run the course in just under three hours, said: "I'll definitely go in for it. I am slightly angry with my mother. I didn't know I was in for it until I came back. I wouldn't say I was a great undiscovered marathon runner, but I think I could still surprise people in London."

Although some of Britain's leading marathon runners will not be taking part (Ian Thompson, for example, the former Commonwealth and European champion, recently ran 2 hours 14 minutes but feels that is not fast enough), the organizers believe that it could be the best quality marathon ever seen. John Disley, the course director, says: "If it is a reasonable day, no race in the world will have seen so many finishers under 2 hours 30 minutes".

For some of the not-so-fleet among the 7,500 or so entrants, there is the chance to take advantage of free Underground travel being offered to all with a number on their back. After they have dropped out of the race, of course.

For the record

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Toronto Maple Leafs 6, St Louis Blues 2; Chicago Black Hawks 5, Philadelphia Flyers 1; Winnipeg Jets 4, Colorado Rockies 3; Edmonton Oilers 5, Minnesota North Stars 5; New York Rangers 3, Boston Bruins 2; Hartford Whalers 9, Montreal Canadiens 5; Quebec Nordiques 6, Washington Capitals 4.

Tennis

NANCY (France): Tournament: men's singles: first round: S. Glickstein (Israel) beat B. Drewett (Australia), 6—[..], 6—4; G. Vilas (Argentina) beat Iskersky (US), 6—1, 6—0; Z. Franulovic (Yugoslavia) beat G. Ocleppo (Italy), 1—6, 6—3, 6—3. Second round: T. Tulasne (France) beat M. Hocevar (Brazil), 6—2, 6—0; J. L. Moreno (Spain) beat P. Portes

BOSTON (Massachusetts): Women's tournament: K. Jordan (US) beat R. [..] (US), 6—2, 6—2; M. ("Peanut") Louie (US) beat P. Casale (US), 3—6, 6—1, 6—2; B. Potter (US) beat M. Blackwood (Canada), 6—2, 4—6, 6—3; M. Jausovec (Yugoslavia) beat K. Latham (US), 7—6, 6—1; H. Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat S. Mabcarin (US), 6—4, 6—1; W. Turnbull (Australia) beat A. Smith (US), 6—4, 6—3; S. Hanika (WG) beat L. Allen (US), 6—4, 6—1.

ROTTERDAM (The Netherlands): Tournament: second round: G. Mayer (US) beat T. Gullikson (US), 7—6 (7—3), 7—6 (7—2).

Golf

NDOLA (Zambia): Cock O' The North Open championship, first round (GB unless stated): 68: I. Woosnam. 69: M. Steadman. 70: B. Waites, P. Head, W. Longmuir, S. Lyle, E. Polland (Ireland). 71: S. Martin, R. Drummond, G. Mason, G. Brand, E. Murray. 72: T. Powell, B. Barnes, P. Tupling, P. Berry, P. Hanna (Ireland), E. Darcy (Ireland). 73: I. Morgan, T. Horton, P. Cowen, J. Higgins, A. Price, M. Poxon.

SCHOOLS COMPETITION: Qualifying rounds: Goodwood: 1, Felpham Comprehensive School, Bognor Regis, 257; 2, Varndean Sixth Form College, Brighton, 258; 3, Dorothy Stringer High School, Brighton, 262. Best individual: T. Harris (Varndean), 76. Whitburn: 1, Queen Elizabeth's High School, Hexham, 252; 2, King Edward VI School, Morpeth, 255; 3, Whickham Comprehensive School, 258. Best individual: J. Laycock (King Edward VI). Headingley: 1, Leeds Grammar School, 234; 2, Belle Vue School, Bradford, 242; 3, Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley, 243. Best individual: S. Tomkinson (Prince Henry's). Delamere Forest: Wellington School, Bebington, Wirral, 255; 2 equal, St Anselm's College, Birkenhead, Ellesmere College, Calday, and Grange Grammar School, West Kirby, 261. Best individual: L. Parry (Carlett Park College, Wirral).

America packs its golf bag and drives west to an oasis of sanity in a desert of despair

Uncle Sam gets high on knickerbocker glory



Sarazen: nostalgia is plus-fours and the Goodman quintet.

A craving by Americans for what many are convinced was a saner and safer past has prompted the blossoming of a senior professional golf circuit for those over 50. Twelve senior events offering over $2m in prize money are on the 1981 schedule. The most recent and the most ambitious of these exercises in golfing nostalgia ended on Sunday in the southern California desert resort of Indian Wells.

Gene Littler easily won the first Vintage Invitational with a 72-hole score of 271, 17 under par. His prize was $50,000, or $33,000 more than he won in the 21 tournaments he entered during 1980 on the regular PGA tour.

An elite international field of 30 included seven British Open champions: Gene Sarazen, Bobby Locke, Peter Thomson, Roberto de Vincenzo, Arnold Palmer, Kel Nagle and Sam Snead. Sarazen equalled his age, 79, in the third round.

Palmer, who is 51, is not all that keen on being labelled "senior". He finished a disappointing ninth, tied with the incredible Snead, now 68, whose *second round score of 69 in a gale* was a masterpiece of shotmaking. Snead, was the leader after 36 holes but could not sustain his efforts for two more days.

The aim of the organizers was to sell winter homes to millionaires who may empathise more readily with the Sarazens and Sneads than with the Lietzkes and Kites. The real estate development, known as Vintage Properties, consists of 712-acres nestled against the foothills of the Santa Rosa mountains. Two courses, one still under construction, have been cleverly sculptured into a golfing oasis by the architects, Tom and George Fazio, from a flat and arid plain.

Plans called for the building of 1,100 living units, ranging from modest-sized condominiums to detached homes on half-acre lots. The prices, even by the fantasyland standards of the area, are formidable. Two bedroom condominiums start at $325,000. The buyer of a lot who builds a house on it can expect to spend more than $1m.

Attendance at senior tournaments has generally been sparse and there were never more than 1,500 on hand during the Vintage Tournament. However, as an observer wise in the peculiarities of sporting commerce pointed out, it is not necessarily a disaster to run up a whopping deficit running a golf tournament if in the process you influence someone to buy property worth more than a million.

Everything about the production bespoke opulence. Guests at a mid-week black tie dinner honouring Snead and Byron Nelson were told there would be a *musical* interlude. The lights dimmed. When they were brightened there, as if by magic, was Benny Goodman and a quintet—flown across the country from Connecticut to play for an hour. Goodman had the right audience. The occasion did not call for the Rolling Stones.

Out on the course near the seventh tee spectators could pause to examine a special display of immaculately restored automobiles, including such gems as a 1929 Bentley "speed" VI convertible and a 1932 turquoise Stutz.

Senior professional golf seems to have arrived at a crucial stage in its evolutionary process. There are, in general terms, three schools of thought as to its future.

The most optimistic foresees a dozen events much like the Vintage, all heavily endowed with corporate advertising and promotional money. Gate receipts would be irrelevant.

A more modest view looks for steady if not spectacular growth from the traditional sponsor who might offer purses of about $150,000. The third opinion contends that this is an aberration, a passing fad. The pessimists not only point to the small galleries but to lack of interest on the part of television networks. Only one of 12 events this year is to be televised nationally.

Senior golf as a spectator sport does have its eccentricities. Among these is a concession to age that permits players to ride in buggies called carts in the United States. The carts speed off and tend to leave spectators gasping in their wake.

Another complication is that the younger seniors, notably Palmer and Littler, will have nothing to do with carts. They walk every step of the way, and quite out of synchronization with those who prefer to ride. Only the United States Golf Association, which conducts the United States senior open championships, imposes a condition barring carts.

Another problem is the relative absence of uncertainty. Senior golf is certain to be dominated by the few who, like Littler and Don January, continue to condition themselves in the competitive cauldron of the PGA tour.

Players like Nagle and Thomson, though of the same ages and possessed of equal talents, have little chance of winning while they restrict their play to a few outings annually. Their problem is like that of the weekend golfer who tries to win the United States Amateur championship in a field loaded with university golfers who play every day.

Frank Hannigan



Palmer: a check-trousered rookie on the senior circuit.

Hockey

Poles salvage something from wreckage

By Sydney Friskin

England 3 Poland 3

England, ahead nearly all the way, were finally held by Poland in the second of two international matches, sponsored by Rank Xerox, at Crystal Palace yesterday. So the Poles, dejected after a 4—0 defeat the previous night, salvaged something from their tour.

England earned five short corners, not one of which was directly converted. The rhythm was not as sharp as the previous night and Craig's striking power and timing were not as effective as Barber's. Nevertheless, the Poles, who were 3—1 down, should not have been let loose in the open spaces. David Whitaker, the England coach, described the result as a tactical disappointment.

Poland profited by a change of goalkeeper, who restricted England to a 1—0 interval lead. He saved early shots from Bhaura and Batchelor, who had a good game on the left wing. In the 15th minute, the first short corner for England led to a penalty stroke after the goalkeeper had made two successive saves. Westcott converted.

A spiritless second half period ended with Westcott scoring the match's best goal, advancing to send the ball into the net with a reverse flick from Wilkinson's free hit. Five minutes later, Horwat delivered the first blow for Poland with a well-taken goal and although Brookeman, with some help from Precious, put England 3—1 ahead, their security was soon threatened.

The Poles, who always looked dangerous in breakaways, scored two quick goals through Bak and Horwat and although England nearly won the match, with Kerly just missing the far post, they were left in the end with something to think about.

ENGLAND: J. Hurst (St Albans); J. L. Duthie (Southgate), M. D. Wilkinson (Neston), D. Craig (Southgate), R. D. A. Dodds (Cambridge University), M. Precious (Oxford University), D. G. Westcott (Oxford University), N. Hughes (Wakefield, capt), R. H. Brookeman (Southgate, sub, G. Rule, Beckenham), K. S. Bhaura (Hounslow, sub, A. Kerly, Southgate), S. Batchelor (Southgate).

POLAND: R. Petrykowski; M. Kruszer, A. Maszielerz, R. Twerdyk, J. Merlinger, J. Wybieralski, K. Bak, Z. Rachwalski (capt), H. Howart, L. Torz, A. Mysliwiec.

Umpires: A. Moore, C. Henderson (Ireland).

Badmington

MALMOE: Swedish Open championships: Semi-final round results: Men's singles: L. Pongoh (Indonesia) beat R. Stevens (England), 14—15, 15—6, 15—8; M. Frost (Denmark) beat K. Jolly (England), 15—[..], 15—[..]. Women's singles: S. Hwang (South Korea) beat S. Kitada (Japan), 12—11, 11—8; Lie Ing Ivana (Indonesia) beat K. Larsen (Denmark), 3—11, 11—2, 11—4. Men's doubles: Frtawlo and Hadibowo (Indonesia) beat Hartono and Heryyanto (Indonesia), 10—15, 15—0, 17—15; S. Karlsson and T. Kihlstrom beat F. Delfs and S. Skovgaard (Denmark), [..]; N. Perry 15—10. Women's doubles: N. Perry and S. Leadbeater (England) beat Yunja Kim and Suwal Hwang (South Korea), 15—10, 15—4; K. [..] and K. Takamine (Japan) beat Chiee Yoo and Haingsuk Kang (South Korea), 15—10, 15—8. Mixed doubles: M. Dew and G. Clark (England) beat Stevens and B. Sutton (England), 14—18, 15—12, 17—14; B. Gilliland (Scotland) and Perry beat Sutton and Leadbeater (England), 15—1, 15—7.

Athletics

TEL AVIV: Marathon: 1, J. M. Charbonnel (France), 2hrs [..]mins 47secs; 2, A. McGee (GB), 2-38.25; 3, A. Levy (Israel) 2-40.47.

Boxing

PARIS: European light-middleweight title: L. Acaries (France) beat M. Benes (Yugoslavia), pts.

Racing

Little Owl's flight to Gold Cup glory

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Jim Wilson became only the third amateur rider to ever win the Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday when he partnered Little Owl, a seven-year-old that he owns together with his younger brother, Robin, to record one of the most memorable results for a long time, certainly one of the most enjoyable that I can recall. Mr Wilson's achievement was equalled in the heat of the moment only by that of his trainer, Peter Easterby, who became the fifth man in 34 years to train the winner of the Champion Hurdle and the Gold Cup in the same year.

Easterby is a quiet man from the heart of Yorkshire who tends to let his horses do most of the talking. How eloquently they spoke for him this week. And not, I hasten to add for the first time. His skill is now something of a legend.

In addition to Little Owl Easterby also saddled the runner-up, Night Nurse. What a wonderful race he ran. Had he won he would have become the first horse to ever win the Gold Cup as well as the Champion Hurdle and how many would have relished being witness to that achievement. Sadly it was not to be but still it was an occasion to savour. All in all those who packed the unsaddling enclosure which overlooks this great natural amphitheatre can seldom have witnessed a more emotional scene. As he rode Little Owl in triumph Mr Wilson raised an arm heavenwards.

To those in the know it was the most moving gesture of all because in his own mind he was waving to his late aunt Mrs Bobby Gundry from whom he and his brother inherited Little Owl a little under a year ago.

"She would have been watching from that marvellous vantage point," Mr Wilson remarked later with tears in his eyes. Twelve months ago his aunt had watched Little Owl—her pride and joy—fall in the Sun Alliance Steeplechase on the second day of the meeting. Three days later she died not many a mile from the course and ironically that was not only the only time that Little Owl has ever fallen but also the only time that he has ever been beaten over fences. Fate can be cruel. Yesterday her horse and her nephew did her and her memory proud. Little Owl became her property originally when he was still only a raw unbroken three-year-old after her trainer had paid 2,200 guineas for him in the sale ring at Doncaster.

"And I promise you I would not have made another bid for him if I had not got him at that price because he was related to a whole load of rubbish", Easterby remarked yesterday as we recalled those far off days. Little did he realize that reference to rubbish was the unkindest quip of all to my heart because among the load in question was his full brother, a horse named Mr Hegarty in whom I once had a share along with nine others. Sadly from our point of view Mr Hegarty was never much good whereas his brother has now become one of the immortals in National Hunt racing.

Easterby must have been in a quandary yesterday with his feet in two camps: "I did not know which one to shout for", he remarked later as he gave us a rare glimpse of his innermost feelings. A non-talker he may be but he is still not devoid of a sense of humour and as he left the course he bade farewell with these remarks to us southerners: "At least I will be going up the A1 with the brass tonight and we are a bit short of it up there."

For Mr Wilson the journey home was somewhat less arduous but no less satisfactory. He lives at Charlton Kings which is only two miles from the racecourse where he owns and runs an equine swimming pool. Twelve months ago he was the recipient of the Ritz trophy which goes these days to the leading rider at this particular meeting. If he did not exactly manage to measure up to that standard this year and in this instance beat John Francome, who is after all a champion in his own right, he still ended the meeting with two winners in the bag and they happen to be his old favourite Willie Wumpkins and Little Owl, his cup can only have been brimming over. And so to the race.

Tied Cottage set off in the lead as usual but he got no farther than the sixth fence. Thereafter Night Nurse was in the van attended closely for another circuit by Diamond Edge, Little Owl, Silver Buck and Spartan Missile. Racing down the hill for the last time it was already clear that the race had developed in to a three cornered affair between Little Owl, Night Nurse, and Silver Buck, another challenger from Yorkshire who was sandwiched between them.

As they shaped up to the last fence but one the thought occurred to me that Silver Buck had the prize within his grasp but as soon as they landed over that particular fence all those thoughts evaporated. Suddenly Little Owl was in command and once on the bridge he remained there even though Alan Brown conjured an amazing rally from Night Nurse. In fact it was Silver Buck who stopped to nothing racing up the hill but still he managed to cling on to third prize.



Little Owl flies over the last fence to win the Gold Cup from Night Nurse.

Great day as Cumbria lives it up in the Ritz

By Michael Seely

The North of England took over the role of the Irish at Cheltenham this year. Normally hordes of punters from across the water are shouting their heroes home. This March it was the turn of the men from the North.

Besides their fantastic feat of providing the first three in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday, Gordon Richards struck a mighty blow for Cumbria by winning the Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase with Current Gold and the final race of the meeting, the Cathcart Challenge Cup, with Lord Greystoke. The tally at the end of yet another glorious National Hunt Festival was eight victories to southern-trained horses, seven to those from the North and only three to Ireland.

John Francome won the Ritz Club Trophy awarded to the leading jockey of the fixture after his three victories on the opening day. Jim Wilson and Neil Doughty share the honours for second place with two winners apiece.

In direct contrast to the result of the Gold Cup, that of the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle went entirely contrary to public expectations. Racing to the last flight of hurdles, Broadsword, the 7 to 4 favourite, had stormed to the front like a certain winner. But the 66 to 1 chance, Baron Blakeney, who had been in only fourth place jumping the hurdles, started to gain ground.

Finishing like a rocket, the West Country-trained gelding forced his head in front to beat Broadsword by three-quarters of a length with Tie Anchor four lengths away third. The most surprised man on the track was David Nicholson, trainer of the second. "I was watching from the bottom part of the lawn and was sure that we had won. I even gave a jig of delight." The Gloucestershire trainer took his defeat well.

One of the surprising features of Baron Blakeney's victory was that the winning jockey, Paul Leach, dropped his whip two hurdles from home. Full marks, however, must go to the successful trainer, Martin Pipe, from Wellington in Somerset. Baron Blakeney had won only minor events at Wincanton and Worcester, but Pipe had been keen on his chances. "I fancied him quite a bit and had a good few quid on him." Results like this do nothing but good for the game, unwelcome though they may be for the student of form.

It seems a pity that the Triumph Hurdle could not be run on the middle day of the meeting. The Queen Mother Champion Chase is a thrilling event but it lacks the competitive element of the four-year-old championship. If the Cheltenham executive were able to do this we would have one outstanding race on each day of the festival.

The Christies Foxhunters Challenge Cup resulted in a duel between Grittar and Honourable Man. The joint favourite, Persian Scimitar, disappointed his supporters by falling at the sixth fence. Grittar got the upper hand between the last two fences and won by 12 lengths. The winner is trained by Frank Gilman, who farms on a large scale in Leicestershire and was ridden by that skilful veteran, Dick Saunders, one of the joint Masters of the Pytchley. "I've always told you that this was a good horse", Gilman said. "We'll now go for the double in the Foxhunters at Liverpool".

The Irish landed one of the gambles of the meeting when Edward O'Grady saddled Staplestown to run out a comfortable winner of the County Handicap Hurdle. Staplestown, who had finished fourth to Jaazeiro in the Irish 2,000 Guineas as a three-year-old, was coolly handled by Tom O'Ryan. Riding the winner out with hands and heels, O'Ryan gave a polished performance of forceful jockeyship without having recourse to the whip.

O'Grady said that he had been disappointed with Jack of Trumps in the Gold Cup, whom he said had run well below his best. An inquiry was held after the County Hurdle. Sam Morshead was found guilty of careless riding on Albion Prince and was suspended for six days.

A woman's Kiplingcotes

By a Special Correspondent

One of the seven women riders won the 462nd Kiplingcotes Derby yesterday over the four-mile-long rough course through four parishes on the Yorkshire Wolds near Driffield. Miss Gail Dassern, of Aldfield, near Ripon, triumphed on Lucky to collect £28 in winnings.

Brian Tinson, riding Baby Rat, was second, to win the major prize, the accumulated race fees which, with 10 riders, this year, amounted to £40. The winner's prize is the accumulated interest on the endowment which perpetuates the race. The race was first run in 1519 and even in times of war, local farmers have maintained the unbroken record of running it on the third Thursday in March every year.

There were two other records this year: the race has been recognized by the Jockey Club and, for the first time, the clerk of the course is a woman—mother of two, Mrs Susan Hillarby, who has taken over from her father to maintain the family tradition.

Table tennis

Mrs Hammersley: a breakthrough for women's lob.

England's first lady smashes her way into man's world

By Richard Streeton

Loose wording when the rules for the English National Table Tennis League were compiled two years ago is likely to be exploited next season to allow Jill Hammersley, a former European champion, to be the first woman to play in the competition. It is part of concerted efforts to find Mrs Hammersley sufficient income from the sport to stop her accepting a lucrative offer from Kiel in West Germany.

Sealink Milton Keynes are willing to sign Mrs Hammersley as their No 4 singles player. The English association's management committee, when asked for clarification, have agreed that the national league rules do not state that the supposedly men's event is for men only. They have agreed in principle to Mrs Hammersley joining Sealink. Other clubs are wondering if there are any other women good enough to play on level terms regularly against men.

It might be unpalatable to women's liberationists but standards are so much higher in the men's game that the answer is probably not. Mrs Hammersley is far ahead of her contemporaries in England, but even playing at No 4 she will not find regular league success easy. What the English association may consider is changing the rules to stipulate that every league team have to include one woman.

There is little likelihood of a women's league being launched and this could be a compromise. It would also help develop English women's standards. Bettine Vriesekoop, of The Netherlands, who like Mrs Hammersley is supreme in her own country, has become an even better player this year since playing in the Dutch men's league.

West German offers to Mrs Hammersley are probably worth about £12,000 to her but she is not keen on regular travelling, which has taken the edge off the play of several English players in the past few years. A mail order firm want to sponsor Mrs Hammersley who would model for them; a national league commitment would help her further in several ways; and, if the English association can find her coaching or other outlets, the German offer would soon be bettered.

Mrs Hammersley will have to decide on her future by early May, so it could still be on her mind during the world championships in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, from April 14 to 26. She has been seeded fifth in the women's singles there and in an attempt to reach the last 16 is expected to meet Gordana Perkucin, of Yugoslavia, who beat her in the European championships in Berne last year.

Cheltenham results

2.15 (2.18) DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE (4-y-o: £15,110: 2m)
BARON BLAKENEY, gr c, by Blakeney—Teleflora (Wheatley Leisure Ltd), 11-0 P. Leach (66-1) 1
Broadsword, b c, by Ack Ack—Cutting (Ld Northampton), 11-0 P. Scudamore (7-4 fav) 2
Tie Anchor, ch c, by Quayside—Charming Girl (D. Hale), 11-0 T. McGivern (14-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 7-1 Kolme, 12-1 Homeson, 16-1 The Very Thing, Here's Why (5th), 18-1 Mansky, Ra Tapu, 25-1 Apple Wine (6), Fledoo, Synerria, 33-1 Frasass Infinito, My Tummy, 50-1 Hopeful Shot, Jade's Double, Little Walter, 66-1 Franciscus, 100-1 Our Bara Boy, Miss Couture (f), Browne Eclipse, Disco Dancer, Kathies Lad, King Ragapan, Lir, Mr Moonraker, Sharp Deal, Tibury. 29 ran. NR: Imperium
TOTE: Win, £17.29; places, £1.37, 16p, 56p. Dual F: £14.96. CSF £16.80. M Pipe, at Wellington. ¾l, 4l.

2.50 (2.50) CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (£n,393: 3¼m)
GRITTAR, b g, by Grisaille—Tarama (F. Gilman), 8-12-0 Mr C. Saunders (12-1) 1
Honourable Man, b g, by Marcus Brutus—Woodland Maiden (Mrs P. Russell), 8-12-0 Mr T. G. Dun (9-2) 2
Sun Lion, br g, by Sunny Way—Winnie's Krocus (R. Walley-Cohen), 11-12-0 car 12-7 Mr R. Walley-Cohen (33-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 100-30 jt favs Shannon Bridge (p), Persian Scimitar (f), 8-1 Queensbury Lad (p), 12-1 Wiggle Geo (u), 14-1 Dancing Brig, 20-1 Lord Dawson (f), Sparteila (f), 33-1 Coolishall, Florida King (u), Royal Guide (f), Sparkford 4th), Spartan Scot (p), Spartan Lad (p), The Wrestler (p). 17 ran.
TOTE: Win, £1.46; places, 36p, 22p, £1.38. Dual F: £2.31. CSF: £6.19. F. Gilman, at Uppingham. 12l, 20l.

3.30 (3.31) TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (£44,258: 3¼m)
LITTLE OWL, b g, by Cantab-Black Spangle (R. Wilson), 7-12-0 ...... Mr A. J. Wilson (6-1) 1
Night Nurse, b g, by Falcon—Florence Nightingale (R. Spencer), 10-12-0 .... A. Brown (6-1) 2
Silver Buck, br g, by Silver Cloud—Choice Archless (Mrs C Feather), 9-12-0 .. T. Carmody (7-2 fav) 3
ALSO RAN: 7-1 Jack of Trumps, 15-2 Tied Cottage (u), 10-1 Royal Bond (p), 14-1 Midnight Court, 16-1 Diamond Edge, 33-1 Approaching, Chinrullah (p), Spartan Missile (4th), 100-1 Fair View (p), Raffi Nelson (p), Royal Judgement (o), So and So. 15 ran. NR: Anaglogs Daughter, Master Smudge.
TOTE: Win 48p; places, 17p, 16p, 18p. Dual forecast: 91p. CSF: £3.93. M. H. Easterby, at Great Habton. 1½l, 10l.

4.5 (4.8) RITZ CLUB NATIONAL HUNT CHASE (Handicap, £9,476: 3m 1f)
CURRENT GOLD, ch g, by Current Coin—Souvergold (A Picken), 10-10-7 .... N. Doughty (10-1) 1
Candy VI, ch g, by Athenius—dam's name unregistered (Mrs E. White-Spunner), 12-10-13 R. Hoare (20-1) 2
Megan's Boy, b g, by Lomond—Nipon (J. Craig), 8-11-10 P. A. Charlton (10-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Sunset Cristo (4th), 5-1 Highway Pal (u), 8-1 Bregawn (f), 9-1 Bideford (f), Jack Madness (p), Tarbank (f), 14-1 Go Metric (f), Prince Rock, China Cottage, 20-1 Colonel Christy, 50-1 Milan Major (p), 66-1 Town Counsellor (f), Endurance Trust (p). 16 ran. NR: Luska
TOTE: win, 91p; places, 16p, 67p, 41p, 19p. Dual forecast: £15.17. CSF: £19.80. G. W. Richards, at Greystoke. 15l, 7l.

4.40 (4.44) COUNTY HURDLE (Handicap: £7,258: 2m)
STAPLESTOWN, g, by Rarity—Oblige (Mrs I. O'Sullivan), 6-10-7 .. T. J. Ryan (11-2 fav) 1
Dahagon, ch c, by Mount Hagen—Audrey Joan (J. Marshall), 5-10-8 .... T. Carmody (11-1) 2
Passing Parade, b g, by Seiko—Pandore II (Mrs S. Straine), 6-11-2 .... N. Madden (14-1) 3
Hudson's Bay, b g, by Great Wall—Fair Sue (Mrs M. Ponsonby), 8-10-4 S. Smith Eccles (15-2) 4
ALSO RAN: 7-1 Shell Burst, 10-1 Atalaho, Golden Vow, 12-1 Lensgon, Prince of Bermuda, Sir Titus, 14-1 Bamp, Royal Coachman, Sea Image, 16-1 Lady Martha, 20-1 Roadway, Tompion, Vascar, 25-1 Albion Prince, 33-1 Unknown Target, Andy's Gift, Mitchelstown, Veramente, Mandy's Time, Capvisia, Brother Kempinski. 25 ran.
TOTE: Win, 78p; places, 29p, 21p, 40p, 26p. Dual F: £7.34. CSF: £7.52. E. O'Grady, in Ireland. ¾l, ¾l.

5.15 (5.15) CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£5,904: 2m)
LORD GREYSTOKE, b g, by Royal Palm—Lalama Lady (E. Etherington, jnr), 10-11-6 N. Doughty (7-2) 1
Hot Tomato, br g, by Giolla Mear—Lickeen (Mrs M. Barker), 9-11-9 ...... P. Blacker (5-1) 2
Beacon Light, b g, by Relko—Illuminous (H Joel), 10-11-9 A. Turnell (2-3 fav) 3
ALSO RAN: 11-4 Drumgora (4th), 12-1 Duc de Bolebec (f), 20-1 Saint Taffy, 50-1 Triangle (f), 100-1 Tonedale. 8 ran. NR: Stopped, Durham Town.
TOTE: Win, 46p; places, 15p, 11p, 11p. Dual F: 71p. CSF: £2.10. G. W. Richards, at Greystoke. 7l, 2½l.
TOTE DOUBLE: £80.90. TOTE TREBLE: £246.40. JACKPOT: Not won. Pool of £26,758.55 carried forward to Lingfield Park tomorrow. PLACEPOT: £26.40.

Hexham

2.0: 1, Captain Parkhill (11-4); 2, Border Brig (4-7 fav); 3, Stag Party (6-1). 4 ran.
2.30: 1, Urser (5-1 fav); 2, Part-Ex (7-1); 3, Ribonny (10-1). 15 ran.
3.5: 1, Solo Sam (7-4); 2, Three To One (13-8 fav); 3, Indian Emperor (10-1). 6 ran.
3.45: 1, Hodson Hero (6-1); 2, Furry Rock (6-4 fav); 3, Fygham (14-1). 11 ran.
4.15: 1, Meadsgrove (9-4 fav); 2, Spring Rocket (6-1); 3, Estate Agent (9-2). 12 ran.
4.45: 1, Marshall Field (3-1); 2, Metrolands (11-2); 3, Sunlit River (11-4 fav). 12 ran.

Lingfield Park programme

2.0 EDEN HURDLE (£687 : 2m)

1	0003/0	Allanstown (CD), H. O'Neill, 5-11-12	M. Carberry 7
2	401410	Bold and Wild (D), A. Aylett, 6-11-12	—
3	003000	Goldoration (D), H. O'Neill, 6-11-12	G. Gracey 4
5	p00/21p-	Handsome Blaze (D), G. Booth, 6-11-12	—
6	100-p0p	Manawa (D), A. Davison, 5-11-12	J. Akehurst 7
10	002-u03	Cutler, A. Moore, 6-11-7	G. Moore 4
11	fr0000	Errantry (B), D. Jermy, 6-11-7	R. Hughes
15	000600	Glutton (B), A. Davison, 6-11-7	M. Banham 4
16	00-0000	Guernaventure, A. Neaves, 6-11-7	C. Mann 7
18	000p-pp	Nepotist, D. Jermy, 6-11-7	G. Old
19	0b	Pitora, G. Lockerbie, 5-11-7	N. Balmer
22	004fp0	Skerries, R. Head, 6-11-7	R. Goldstein
24	000000-	Whriba, Miss L Bower, 5-11-7	M. Reeves 7
25	00000	All Our Yesterdays, M Salaman, 4-10-9	J. Kear
26	00300	Aluwhite Venture, W. Holden, 4-10-9	A. Coogan 4
27	00f	Indecisive, Mrs N. Smith, 4-10-9	S. Shilston
30	000	Royal Mantle, A. Pitt, 4-10-9	I. Cox 4

2-1 Pitora, 7-2 Cutler, 5-1 Bold and Wild, 6-1 Indecisive, 8-1 Allanstown, 10-1 Royal Mantle, 16-1 Aluwhite Venture, 20-1 others.

2.30 NEWLEAF HURDLE (Div I : 4-y-o novices : £690 : 2m)

2	p	Alpaga, D. Underwood, 11-0	J. Redmond 4
3	00	Armatex, M. Bolton 11-0	—
5	00	Battling On, F. Brecon, 11-0	—
6	0000	Brooklet, C. Wildman, 11-0	M. Bastard 4
7	043	City Link Express, P. Ashworth, 11-0	R. Berry 4
10		Eridge Country, E. Beeson, 11-0	R. de Haan 4
11	000	Fast Green, Mrs N Smith 11-0	A. Webb
12		Front Desk, C. Cyzer, 11-0	A. Curran 4
13	fou	Happy Yappy, Rev Carter, 11-0	J. King
14	220	Jamie Scott, M. Masson 11-0	—
15	40430	Low Quay, G. P.-Gordon, 11-0	S. Smith Eccles
16	000	Power Love, A. Moore, 11-0	G. Moore 4
17		Praetorian, G. Thorner, 11-0	P. Barton
19	0	Spikey Bill, P. Mitchell 11-0	R. Hughes
20		Strawman, A. Davison, 11-0	M. Banham 4
21	0	Studio Copy, K. Bailey, 11-0	H. Davies
22		Teagarden, D. Sasse, 11-0	G. Brown
23	00	We'll Meet Again, C. Benstead, 11-0	R. Rowell
24	0	Widd, M. Masson, 11-0	A. Turnell
25	002000	Wimsey, R. Head 11-0	R. Goldstein
27	33	York Cottage, N. Gaselee, 11-0	M. Floyd

5-1 York Cottage, 3-1 City Link Express, 5-1 Jamie Scott, 8-1 Widd, 12-1 Low Quay, Wimsey, 16-1 others.

3.0 NUTLEY CHASE (Novices : £2,575 : 3m)

1	4-4f4f0	Bayham Sir Vardon, C. Read, 7-11-2	R. Rowell
2	00up03	Cairn Royal, Mrs J. French 8-11-2	Mrs S. French
3	000ffu	Carraig Dubh, G. Kindersley, 7-11-2	K. Mooney
5	pbo	Davy's Lyric, M. Kelly, 8-11-2	Mr M. Ballers 7
6	f4-003f	Dutchman, T. Forster, 7-11-2	B. de Haan
8	0C0p4f	Geetcebee, A. Moore, 7-11-2	G. Moore
11	040000	Henry the Great, H. O'Neill 7-11-2	G. Gracey
12	204430	Lysippe, Mrs J. Pitman, 8-11-2	B. Smart
13	00f	Mountain Groom, T. Forster, 9-11-2	H. Davies
16	f-p0000	Reine Beau, D. Grissell, 11-11-2	M. Bastard
17	30-p0p	Retaliack, M. Madgwick, 9-11-2	Mr A. Madgwick 7
19	p000p0	Right Regal (B), J. Old 9-11-2	P. Champion
22	003302	Staunton, N. Henderson, 6-11-2	S. Smith Eccles
23	03-0p3p	Timber Queen, Mrs E Kennard 9-11-2	J. Darlington 4

11-10 Staunton, 4-1 Dutchman, 6-1 Cairn Royal, 8-1 Lysippe, 10-1 Timber Queen, 12-1 Bayham Sir Vardon, 16-1 others.

3.30 CHELSHAM HURDLE (Handicap : £1,320 : 2m)

3	020-000	Dutch Treat (D), H. Price, 8-11-5	C. Gwilliam
4	3C-3r00	Azd (D), M. Masson 6-11-3	A. Turnell
6	0f0p-01	North West (CD), M Masson, 6-11-0	R. Goldstein
7	113/0-20	Fortune Cookie (D), D. Elsworth, 9-10-13	C. Brown
8	3010p0	Versailles Prince (D, B), A. Ingham, 8-10-11	A. Curran 4
10	0/11030	Ravensbourne (D), R. Akehurst, 8-10-5	J. F. O'Neill 7
13	ppfp	Phyl's Pet, M. Bolton, 10-10-0	K. Page 7
14	0p0101	Keno Hill (CD), A Davison, 6-10-0	M. Harrington 7
15	000p00	George Kirtland (D), J. Priday, 9-10-0	I. Cox 4
16	0000p0	Oranmore, R. Atkins, 11-10-0	R. Atkins
18	0120/p	Pekane (D), C. Wildman, 7-10-0	M. Bastard 4

11-4 Fortune Cookie, 3-1 North West, 6-1 Kero Hill, 8-1 Versailles Prince, Dutch Treat, 10-1 Azd, 12-1 Ravensbourne, Oranmore, 16-1 others.

4.0 DORMANS CHASE (Handicap : £2,401 : 2m)

1	f11014	Durham Town (D), M. Henriques, 12-11-10	Mr A. Wilson
3	1dl200	El Cardo (CD, B), Mrs E. Kennard, 11-11-10	S. Keightley 7
5	1-32442	Havanus, D. Morley, 9-11-3	B. Davies
7	11122p	Reldis (D), D. Gandolfo, 7-11-0	P. Barton
8	020403	Galileo (D), R. Armytage, 6-10-3	H. Davies
9	104-332	Indired (D), Mrs A. Finch, 9-10-0	S. Morshead
10	f44000	Gleaming Flight (D), M. Haynes, 11-10-0	M. Bastard 4
11	3-0f030	Benny's Boy, A. Moore, 8-10-0	G. Moore
12	0/002-0f	Somers Glance, I Blair, 12-10-0	P. Burgoyne

5-1 Reldis, 7-2 Indired, 5-1 Durham Town, 6-1 Havanus, 8-1 Galileo, 10-1 El Cardo, 12-1 Gleaming Flight, 14-1 Benny's Boy, 33-1 Somers Glance.

4.30 NEWLEAF HURDLE (Div II : 4-y-o novices : £690 : 2m)

4	0	Cardiff, R. Hoad, 11-0	R. Goldstein
5	b0	Court Green, Mrs N. Smith, 11-0	S. Shilston
7	pp	Current Issue, R. Howe 11-0	C. Enright
9		Gulfport, J. Turner, 11-0	W. Turner
10	000	Handy Dancer, A. Moore, 11-0	G. Moore
11	0	Jim's Tricks, D. Laing, 11-0	K. Mooney
14	0000	Logan (B), M. Masson, 11-0	A. Turnell
15		Louis Roederer, N. Henderson, 11-0	S. Smith Eccles
17	0	Lover's Zest, M. Bolton 11-0	R. de Haan 4
20	f0024	Mountain Monarch, S. Woodman, 11-0	W. Smith
23	rpp000	Nice on the Ice, C. Cyzer, 11-0	A. Curran 4
24	0	Omar Khayyams Son, D. Morley, 11-0	B. Davies
27		Teslon Lad, Pat Mitchell, 11-0	R. G. Hughes
29	p0p0	Tope, D. Dale, 11-10	J. McLaughlin 4

7-4 Mountain Monarch, 3-1 Jim's Tricks, 4-1 Omar Khayyams Son, 8-1 Louis Roederer, 10-1 Teslon Lad, 12-1 Cardiff, 16-1 others.

Lingfield Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
2.0 Pitora. 2.30 York Cottage. 3.0 Staunton. 3.30 Fortune Cookie. 4.0 Reldis. 4.30 Jim's Tricks.

Chepstow selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
2.15 Mount Parnassus. 2.45 Major Knight. 3.15 Ansumdus. 3.45 Go Wimpy. 4.15 Tower Bridge. 4.45 Celtic Tara.

Chepstow programme

2.15 SHANNON OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (Selling : 4-y-o : £513 : 2m)

1	000	Betrothed, R. Woodhouse, 11-0	D. Dutton
2	0p0	Carlton Pride, R. Pincombe, 11-0	J. Sampson
3	0	Chicastan, M. Davies, 11-0	G. Davies
4	00003	Lapleigh Ridge, R. Keenor, 11-0	M. Ayliffe
5		Laser Gift, D. Wintle, 11-0	A. Wathen
6		Llanasntffraed, M. Stephens, 11-0	M. Coyle
7	0b00	Lost Line, M. Pipe, 11-0	R. Millman
10	202	Mount Parnassus, M. Pipe, 11-0	S. Cronk
11	010000	Salford Supreme, D. Nicholson, 11-0	N. Coleman
12		Sovereign Tower, W. Charles, 11-0	I. Williams
13	p0p010	Splendid Request, R. Dimond, 11-0	C. McIlfatrick
14	000300	Tajarama, T. Hallett, 11-0	S. West
15	0	Threnos, R. Dimond, 11-0	W. Newton

2-1 Tajarama, 5-2 Mount Parnassus, 4-1 Lapleigh Ridge, 7-1 Lost Line, 8-1 Salford Supreme, 12-1 Sovereign Tower, 14-1 others.

2.45 KILDARE CHASE (Handicap : novices : £1,330 : 2m)

3	301122	Major Knight (D), R. Head, 7-11-5	J. Francome
9	00-3001	Moonshot, T. Forster, 7-10-11	Mr T. Thomson Jones
12	14u433	Molfast, D. Nicholson, 10-10-8	P. Scudamore
13	p02102	Queen of the Bogs (D), P. Bailey, 8-10-7	A. Webber
15	04fupf	King Acre II (B), Mrs Kennard, 9-10-5	S. May
16	3000f3-	Lady Zeta, J. Bradley, 8-10-4	G. Davies 7
17	03f332	Tom's Little Al (B), W. Williams, 5-10-4	Lorna Vincent
19	00004f	Small Tom, M. Stephens, 7-10-0	J. Williams
21	003000	Just Peep, J. Mowlem, 7-10-0	R. Floyd

6-4 Major Knight, 9-4 Moonshot, 9-2 Queen of the Bogs, 13-2 Molfast, 10-1 Tom's Little Al, 16-1 others.

3.15 CORRIB HURDLE (4-y-o : £1,455 : 2m)

2	1240	Ansumdus (D), N. Henderson, 11-4	J. Nolan
7	300	Alanya, N. Mitchell, 11-0	Mr N. Mitchell
17		Forest Grove, A. Taylor 11-0	Mr L. Taylor
18	040	Freeze Frame, M. Stephens, 11-0	M. Barrett 4
19	p0	Gilaine, D. Ancil, 11-0	P. Scudamore
21	0	Handsome Stranger, M. Oliver, 11-0	R. Crank
23	3000	Harvester Solar, R. Hartop, 11-0	A. Webber
25	0	Holemoor Star, Miss Morris, 11-0	M. O'Halloran
24	00	Hurricane Charlie, R. Turnell, 11-0	Steve Knight
26	4224	Karaberry, R. Head, 11-0	J. Francome
27	00	Lookslike Reindeer, D. Wintle, 11-0	J. Wathen 7
30	00	Master Gregalach, M. Hinchcliffe, 11-0	A. Carroll
32	000	Penny Debt, W. Turner, 11-0	W. Turner
33	00	Rising Fast, D. Elsworth, 11-0	S. Jobar
38	40000	Royal Classic, D. Wintle, 11-0	R. Hyett
39	000	Sandboy, R. Hartop, 11-0	N. Adams 7
41	03003	Shouthout, J. Cann, 11-0	S. G. Knight
42	00	Sir Eamon, J. Edwards, 11-0	P. Blacker
45		Stephen Langton, R. Turnell, 11-0	E. Waite 4
46	00	Topicality (B), J. Bradley, 11-0	G. Davies 7
48	040	Wagnerien, R. Hartop, 11-0	J. Suthern

5-3 Karaberry, 7-2 Ansumdus, 5-1 Sir Eamon, 7-1 Alanya, 10-1 Harvester Solar, 12-1 Wagnerien, 14-1 Shouthout, Holemoor Star, 16-1 others.

3.45 ST PATRICK CHASE (£1,931 : 4m)

10	01p-4ff	Brown Leaf (D), Mrs R. Lomax, 8-11-4	J. Kear
14	1fb211	Go Wimpy (D), M. Dickinson, 6-11-4	T. Carmody
15	0002f0	Jocks Bond, R. Holder, 7-11-4	P. Richards
17	ppu40-0	Moonnee River, Mrs K. Wallace, 13-11-4	Jessica Wallace 7
20	032210	Pucka Fella, Mrs D. Tucker, 7-11-4	Mrs J. Hembrow 4
22	023000	Sunday Evening, K. Bishop, 10-11-4	Mr K. Bishop 7

1-2 Go Wimpy, 5-1 Brown Leaf, 8-1 Pucka Fella, 14-1 Sunday Evening, 16-1 Jocks Bond, 25-1 Moonee River.

4.15 CURRAGH CHASE (Handicap : £1,878 : 2½m)

3	300100	Nimrody (D), F. Winter, 10-11-0	P. Maddison 4
7	113f00	Mermoney (CD), T. Forster, 10-10-6	J. Francome
8	40113-0	Fury Boy (D), D. Nicholson, 8-10-4	P. Scudamore
9	21130f	Tower Bridge, G. Small, 10-10-2	P. Hobbs
12	013210	Choral Festival (D), M. Low, 10-10-0	Mr M. Low 7
13	00301f	Lustful Lady (D), N. Mitchell, 9-10-0	Mr N. Mitchell
14	fb24-21	Lanka (D), W. Price, 9-10-0	J. Williams
15	041003	Cassie's Boy (D), R. Palling, 9-10-0	—
16	21124u	All Right Jack, D. Gandolfo, 8-10-0	M. Richards 7
17	2f411p	Richmede, M. Stephens, 8-10-0	B. Reilly
19	2f411u	Ring of Fire, L. Tizzard, 9-10-0	Mr C. Tizzard 7
21	0fp310	Woodham (D), J. Old, 11-10-0	C. Candy
22	24000-0	Fox Run (B), N. Brookes, 10-10-0	Mr N. Brookes
25	0224pp	Sackville, J. Bradley, 9-10-0	G. Davies 7

4-1 Tower Bridge, 5-1 Fury Boy, 6-1 Nimrody, Mermoney, 7-1 Lanka, 8-1 Choral Festival, 10-1 Richmede, 12-1 All Right Jack, 14-1 Woodham, 16-1 others.

4.45 SHAMROCK HURDLE (Novices : £2,800 : 2½m)

7	b00	Another Plater, S. Kernick, 6-11-8	N. Kernick
11	012402	Celtic Tara, G. Booth, 5-11-8	C. Tinkler
12	00-	Certainty, E. Courage, 6-11-8	T. Andrews 4
15	b	Cornish Fox, W. G. Turner, 5-11-8	W. Turner
17	0	Downton George, G. Bosley, 5-11-8	K. Bosley
21	024300	Go Affa (B), J. Bosley, 6-11-8	G. McCourt
22	p0pp-00	Grand Comedy (B), J. Bradley, 6-11-8	G. Davies 7
24	020100	Marcus Agrippa, J. Sparling, 5-11-8	R. Dickin
38	4	Messenger of Peace, W. R. Williams, 5-11-8	P. Leach
40		Noritza Rhedyn, M. Stephens, 9-11-8	M. Barrell 4
42	f0	Poll Ember (B), J. Bradley, 6-11-8	P. Liddicoat 7
46	003fp0	Royal Mood (D), W. Evans, 7-11-8	Mr B. Eckley 4
47	000	Silver Lane, J. Wilding, 6-11-8	R. Wilding 4
49	00f230	Spaced Out, T. Bailey, 6-11-6	Mr P. Webber
51	300/000-	Tic Tac Mini, Mrs E. Kennard, 7-11-8	B. Reilly
53	p0b	Warren Express, G. Bosley, 6-11-8	—
54	p-03000	Withymans Pool, N. Ayliffe, 7-11-8	N. Ayliffe 7
55	000-30f	Young Geoff, J. Priday, 8-11-8	C. Jones
60	0000	Glitter Sprite, R. Hodges, 4-11-0	S. G. Knight
64	000	Pretty Sharp, G. Clay, 4-11-0	C. Jones

5-4 Celtic Tara, 7-2 Messenger of Peace, 11-2 Marcus Agrippa, 8-1 Spaced Out, Go Affa, 12-1 Young Geoff, 16-1 others.

Rugby League

Another feather in the cap for Holdsworth

By Keith Macklin

After a remarkable rise to prominence this season, the youngest referee in the Rugby League will take charge of the first semi-final round tie of the Challenge Cup, sponsored by Three Fives. The match is between Warrington and Widnes at Wigan on Saturday week and the referee is John Holdsworth, aged 34, of Kippax, near Leeds.

Mr Holdsworth has been on the senior referees panel for just a year, and only became a grade one referee in November. In the five months since then he has been touch judge at a France v Wales international, referee of a colts international and on Wednesday this week referee of the Wales v England European championship game.

Since the appointment to a Challenge Cup semi-final round match is regarded as the final stepping stone to a Wembley final, Mr Holdsworth can be forgiven if he has dreams of walking out before 95,000 people within the next two years. The other semi-final round tie, between Hull Kingston Rovers and St Helens, will be played at Leeds on April 4, with Ronnie Campbell, of Widnes, officiating.

Wigan directors are studying the report of the referee Vincent Moss, of Manchester, on last Sunday's violent game at Huddersfield, in which six men, three from each side, were sent off. It is expected that the directors will have talks with the player-coach, George Fairbairn, before deciding what club action to take against the three Wigan players sent off, Hodkinson, Bolton and Kiss.

Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan vice-chairman, said: "We are studying the referee's report line by line and taking this matter very seriously indeed. We have not been able to talk to George Fairbairn yet because he has been with the England team on Humberside."

Real tennis

McDonald seals it for Cambridge

By Roy McKelvie

Cambridge beat Oxford by four rubbers to two in the University match at Lord's yesterday. The Cambridge second string, Andrew McDonald, sealed victory in the third singles with a surprisingly easy win over Jeremy Fricker by 6—0, 6—3, a reward for his painstaking approach and concentration. The two doubles matches had been shared on Wednesday.

Michael Taylor gave Cambridge their first rubber of the day, beating his namesake, Talbot Taylor, an American, by 6—3, 6—4. The winner, captain of tennis at Cambridge, owed his success to his forceful if unorthodox volleying. The Oxford American could not get enough cut on the ball to keep it down.

Another member of the Cambridge tennis team, Richard Jordan, beat Peter McQuibban 6—4, 6—4 after a few splutters in the second set. Jordan's stroke was even more exaggerated than Michael Taylor's, but he knew what he wanted to do in the court. In the middle of the second set, however, he briefly lost his way, missing points for 4—1, 5—2 and a match point at 5—3. McQuibban saved two more match points before Jordan laid a couple of chases which he was unable to beat.

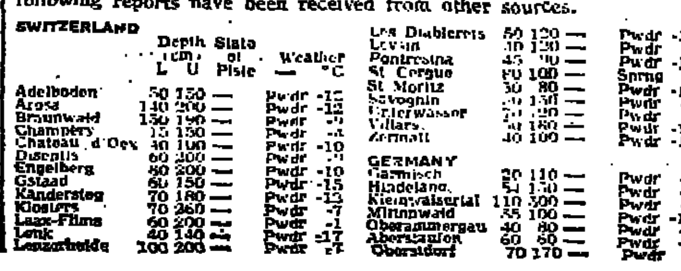
McDonald established a comfortable lead of a set and 4—2 before Fricker, talented but casual, decided to force the pace. The last three games were the best played all day. Overall, Fricker made far too many mistakes against a man who may not possess many winning strokes but missed very few indeed.

RESULTS (Oxford names first): T. Taylor (Tuft's University, Boston, and Trinity) lost to M. V. Taylor (Guildford RGS and Downing), 3—6, 4—6; P. I. McQuibban (Eltham and Wadham) lost to R. D. Jordan (Brentwood and Trinity), 4—6, 4—6; J. Fricker (Harrow and Balliol) lost to A. J. B. McDonald (Malvern and St John's), 0—6, 3—6; W. A. Hollington (Haileybury and St Edmund Hall) beat S. R. Kerndal (Haileybury and Sidney Sussex), 6—0, 6—4.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	100	320	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Icy patches on lower slopes							
Avoriaz	175	215	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	2
Powder on north-facing slopes							
Crans Montana	50	150	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5
Icy patches on lower slopes							
Isola 2000	30	60	—	—	—	—	—
11 ski lifts and 13 runs opened							
Kitzbühel	50	195	Good	Powder	Fair	Fine	3
Excellent piste skiing							
La Plagne	165	360	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-1
Very good skiing							
Les Arcs	110	240	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	-4
Icy patches on lower slopes							
St Anton	110	480	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	3
Good skiing everywhere							
Seëre Chevalier	20	80	Fair	Crust	Fair	Fine	2
Icy patches							
Tignes	130	240	Good	Powder	Icy	Clear	-2
Good snow on a hard base							
Verbier	20	250	Good	Good	Worn	Sun	3
Good overall conditions							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources.



SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	50	150	—	Pwdr	-12
Arosa	140	200	—	Pwdr	-12
Braunwald	150	190	—	Pwdr	-9
Champery	15	150	—	Pwdr	-8
Chateau d'Oex	40	100	—	Pwdr	-10
Disentis	60	200	—	Pwdr	-9
Engelberg	80	200	—	Pwdr	-10
Gstaad	60	150	—	Pwdr	-15
Kandersteg	70	180	—	Pwdr	-13
Klosters	70	260	—	Pwdr	-7
Laax-Flims	60	200	—	Pwdr	-1
Lenk	40	140	—	Pwdr	-17
Lenzerheide	100	200	—	Pwdr	-7
Les Diablerets	50	120	—	Pwdr	-14
Leysin	10	120	—	Pwdr	-8
Pontresina	45	90	—	Pwdr	-17
St Cergue	80	100	—	Spring	-4
St Moritz	30	80	—	Pwdr	-15
Savognin	[illegible]	150	—	Pwdr	-5
Unterwasser	70	120	—	Pwdr	-5
Villars	40	180	—	Pwdr	-10
Zermatt	40	100	—	Pwdr	-10

GERMANY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Garmisch	20	110	—	Pwdr	-8
Hindelang	50	150	—	Pwdr	-7
Kleinwalsertal	110	300	—	Pwdr	-7
Mittenwald	55	100	—	Pwdr	-10
Oberammergau	40	80	—	Pwdr	-7
Oberstaufen	60	80	—	Pwdr	-7
Oberstdorf	70	170	—	Pwdr	-8

Golf

Overnight leaders hold on for victory

By John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent

Belle Robertson and Winnie Wooldridge just held on to their lead on the last day of the Avia Watches women's foursomes tournament at the Berkshire Golf Club yesterday. Leading by five strokes overnight, they had to settle for a final margin of only one over Jane Chapman and Christine MacKintosh. The scores over four rounds were, respectively, 309 and 310. Angela Uzielli and Wilma Aitken were third on 312.

The last hole (161 yards), for the winners at least, was charged with misplaced drama. They needed only a four to win but had been wrongly told they had to make par. Mrs Robertson's tee shot was pin-high eight yards away, whereupon Mrs Wooldridge stood horrified as her putt charged seven feet past. Mrs Robertson's putt in turn jumped in and out and she now collapsed over her putter with frustration. Only after coming off the green did she know what almost every spectator knew, that she and Mrs Wooldridge had won by one stroke.

It was the umpteenth golf victory for Mrs Robertson over two decades, the first for Mrs Wooldridge, whose sideboard is laden with tennis trophies under her maiden name Shaw.

It seemed that this one might evade her and her partner as their game fell away over the closing holes. Holding a lead of three strokes with three holes to play, they immediately squandered two of them. Mrs Robertson played a four iron off the tee when one more club was needed and the ball disappeared only a chip and three putts later at this 155-yard hole. Then came the frustrating 18th.

It had been a difficult tournament for Mrs Wooldridge. She is not unused to the big occasion, as seven Wightman Cup matches will testify, but she felt a special responsibility to an illustrious partner. "Besides", she said, "you don't have time to worry over your shots at tennis."

Miss Chapman, the leading professional, and her partner played the best golf of the day, if not the most consistent. Until they had turned for home this afternoon a par figure on their card was something of a curiosity, and just when it seemed that victory might be possible—the leaders were playing two matches back—their putters went sour.

They wielded them three times on the 16th and 17th and Miss Chapman's six-footer on the last which would have given them a tie lipped the hole. "Never mind", Miss Chapman philosophically observed, "I've played myself into form for tomorrow." Today's tournament at Sunningdale dangles a first prize of £1,000 in front of the top professionals.

FINAL SCORES: 309, Mrs I. Robertson and Mrs W. Wooldridge 80, 71, 78, 80; 310, Miss J. Chapman and Miss C. MacKintosh, 80, 78, 75, 77; 312, Mrs A. Uzielli and Miss W. Aitken, 77, 79, 77, 79; 313, Mrs T. Thomas and Miss M. McKenna, 79, 82, 77, 75; 314, Mrs C. Caldwell and Miss R. Now, 82, 78, 80, 74; 315, Miss G. Stewart and Miss P. Wright 75, 82, 78, 81; 318, Miss V. Saunders and Miss C. Bourihane, 79, 78, 81, 80; 319, Mrs S. Birley and Mrs V. Morgan, 81, 79, 79, 80; 320, Miss V. Marvin and Miss C. Barker, 82, 79, 82, 77; 321, Miss C. Pierce and Miss C. Waite, 83, 77, 82, 79.

Oxford go for a fourth

By Peter Ryde

Oxford, with four of last year's team, and Cambridge, with five, confront each other today in the University Match over the Formby links. Cambridge have won 50 of the 91 encounters between the two universities, Oxford 36, with five tied. Oxford have reduced the gap by winning on the last three occasions, to the mild surprise of many but not, of course, of themselves. They appear to have found the knack, although this must be illusory, of playing above themselves on the day which better teams than they frequently fail to do.

Last year Cambridge appeared to have everything going their way but, after leading in the foursomes, they failed to win enough singles on the last day. Again this year they come to the match with a better record—14 victories against club sides, including such noteworthy scalps as Royal St George's, Addington, Berkshire and, more recently, the Notts.

On Wednesday the stymies, the Cambridge second team, won their annual match against the divots by 12—3, the divots showing a slight improvement on their performance last year. To this improvement Jane Tucker, the first woman to play against a Cambridge team, using forward tees, made her contribution, holing a good putt on the 18th for the match. She and her partner gave the Divots their only point in the foursomes.

Oxford fared better than for some time in the Dinner Match between the reserves. After halving the foursome (not strictly in accordance with tradition which holds that the foursome in the Dinner Match be played out) they shared the singles.

DINNER MATCH (Oxford names first), foursome: K. J. Armstrong and R. D. Livesey halved with T. M. Walker and R. H. Bigley. Single: Livesey beat Bigley 2 and 1. Armstrong lost to Walker 2 and 1.
TODAY'S FOURSOMES (Oxford names first): S. P. Thomas and M. E. Robson v G. S. Melville and S. D. Rosser; P. A. Vickers and R. J. Bisson v J. C. Leigh and T. C. W. Godwin; A. J. G. Wright and R. C. Phillips v D. J. Warden and P. M. Froggatt; K. R. Morris and G. B. Taylor v R. J. H. Randall and G. J. Collingham; T. D. Askew and M. H. Butler v J. H. Bryce and J. D. Cruickshank.

Scottish events offer £22,000 in prize money

Scottish professional golfers will have the chance to play for £22,000 in prize money during an eight-day spell in August. Details of a new 72-hole tournament at Grangemouth were announced yesterday to complete a lucrative programme for the period set aside by the European Tournament Players Division for regional events.

The £6,000 Grangemouth tournament, sponsored by Falkirk District Council, will take place from August 6 to 8. Preceding that event is the three-day Skol tournament at Cowglen, worth £8,500, and on August 9 to 10 there are two pro-ams at Carluke and Whitecraigs valued at £2,500 and £5,000 respectively.

Sandy Jones, the Scottish region secretary of the PGA, said he was confident that leading Scottish players such as Brian Barnes, Bernard Gallacher and Sam Torrance would compete in the events. "It promises to be an excellent week's golf."

Motoring

On the beaten track with 4-wheel drive

Four-wheel drive is normally associated with off-road motoring and is employed mainly by utility vehicles such as the Land-Rover as a means of providing greater traction on rough and slippery surfaces and steep gradients, or combinations of all three.

Only rarely has four-wheel drive been applied to cars. There was the FF, or Ferguson Formula, system (named after the tractor man), which was available as an option on the now deceased Jensen Interceptor between 1966 and 1971; and the Japanese Subaru range includes a "4 by 4" medium saloon and estate aimed at farmers, fishermen and the like.

This week an exciting newcomer went on sale in Britain. The Audi Quattro is a high performance car with a permanently engaged four-wheel drive system, which is intended for road use only. It has been fitted to enhance handling and roadholding, not to take the car across fields.

The Quattro is powered by a 200bhp turbo-charged version of the Audi 2.2 litre, five-cylinder engine and claims Porsche/Ferrari performance: 0 to 60 mph acceleration in seven seconds and a top speed of 137mph. Partly thanks to the smooth aerodynamic shape and prominent front and rear spoilers, it also returns a respectable 18 to 26mpg, and it has a big 20-gallon fuel tank.

The car is being sold in Britain with left-hand drive only; the expected sales of 200 to 300 cars a year were not felt to justify the expense of conversion. Because it is a specialized vehicle, only six dealers will sell it and be able to carry out major servicing and repairs.

According to Mr Herbert Brockhaus, a senior Audi engineer, the Quattro was a "child of love". It was not the product of long-term planning, more a sudden whim. The inspiration was provided by the Iltis four-wheel-drive vehicle, which Audi produces for the German army; why not, someone suggested, adapt the principle for a car?

The original idea was to make a small number of hand-built models, but enthusiasm multiplied and output is now running at 10 a day. Moreover, the concept has proved so successful, both on the road and in rallies, that other Audis are being lined up for the four-wheel drive treatment.

The Quattro is a good example of the Meccano process of building lots of models from a basic set of parts. The engine, though increased in power, is the same as that used in the Audi 200; the all-disc hydraulically assisted brakes also come from the 200; and the bodyshell is essentially that of the Audi Coupé, of which more below.

Stirring in these ingredients and adding four-wheel drive has given the Quattro two clear advantages over almost all other cars: first, in roadholding, under braking, acceleration or cornering; and, second, better grip on road surfaces made difficult through mud, snow or ice, or on steep hills. I had a chance to test both those qualities in Devon this week and was enormously impressed.

For its combination of performance and handling, the Quattro stands almost alone. The turbo-charger coming in so smoothly that you are hardly aware of it, produces a tremendous surge of power, which is not only exhilarating for its own sake but a boon when overtaking and pulling clear of traffic.

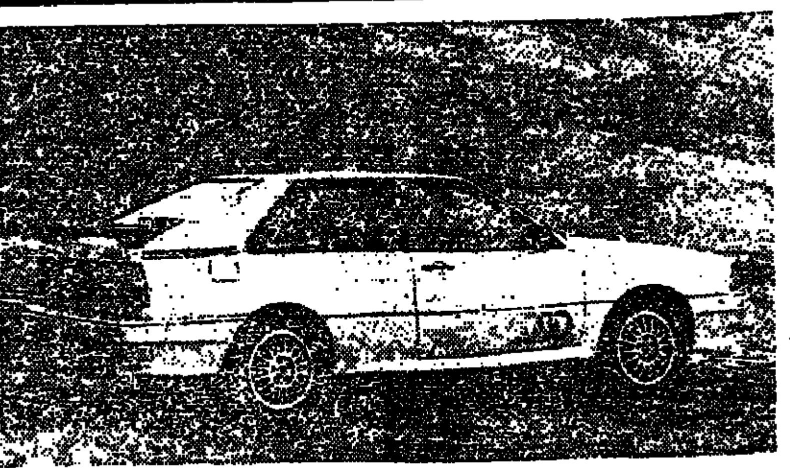
The only qualification is that the full effect of the turbo is not felt below about 3,000rpm, so it requires hard driving in the first place.

The car is driven through a five-speed manual gearbox, which gives precise though not always very quick changes, and a heavyish clutch. To get the best out of the car it is necessary to change down fairly often; there is not much pulling power in fifth until the car is fully "wound up", which virtually means breaking the speed limit.

The roadholding is exceptional, allowing the Quattro to be driven round corners safely at speeds that would not be contemplated in most cars, with barely a hint of roll or tyre squeal. The narrow, winding, switchback roads across Dartmoor set the Quattro a stiff test, which it passed with honours. And a steep mud track that no ordinary car could have negotiated was climbed with ease.

The Quattro is a performance car in the German style, with hard seats and firm, all-independent suspension. The ride, in the circumstances, is far from uncomfortable. Unlike many sporting models, the car is a genuine four-seater, though the boot is modest and high back reduces rear visibility.

A price of £14,500 may sound high, but since the Quattro has no direct competitors comparisons are difficult to make. In normal driving, its very high reserves of handling and roadholding, not to say performance, will not be taken up, and to that extent it is offering more than most drivers want or need.



Audi's "child of love"—the four-wheel drive Quattro.

Nor will left-hand drive help its second-hand value. The appeal, therefore, is strictly to the enthusiast; but it is a remarkable achievement all the same.

The Audi Coupé which shares the Quattro's bodyshape, goes on sale in Britain on April 10. It is aimed at the sensible, rather than the sporting, motorist, with the emphasis on comfort, space and economy rather than performance. The engine is another version of the Audi five-cylinder, with a capacity of 1.9 litres; acceleration is acceptable rather than dramatic but driven gently the car should give about 30mpg.

Useful aids to economy include a high ratio fifth gear (which cuts engine speed at 70 mph to 2,500rpm); an arrow which lights up to tell the driver to change to a higher gear; and an econometer, or consumption gauge. The Coupé is available in right-hand drive, although its windscreen wipers have not been converted, and costs £7,500.

Road Test: Citroën CX automatic

Though automatic transmissions are chosen by only one in 10 new car buyers over the whole range of cars, the take-up on bigger models, those of two litres and more, is much higher. That is why Citroën may have missed an opportunity by not offering until now an automatic on the CX.

True, CX buyers could opt for the C-Matic transmission, a compromise solution which offers manual gearchanges but without a clutch. The system works well enough but is probably felt to be neither one thing nor the other; whatever the reason, it has not been popular and Citroën has acknowledged that by fitting a conventional automatic on larger engined CX models.

The box is a ZF three-speed, with torque converter, used with the 2.4 litre engine in fuel injected form and developing 128bhp. The marriage is for the most part harmonious, upward changes being imperceptible and the ratios nicely spaced. The downward changes obtained through the kickdown are only a little less smooth.

The transmission can be used manually, and the changes are easily made, though apart from such manoeuvres as holding the car in low gear on a steep hill I was happy to put the box into "drive" and forget about it. To save the driver having to look down to the floor to see which gear he is in, the information is conveyed on an illuminated panel just below the dashboard instruments.

Though most cars of this size use six-cylinder engines, the Citroën "four" (an old pushrod design going back to the D series) still holds its own and, at this fuel injected version, at least, is quiet and lively enough for you not to be wondering why Citroën does not make use of the 2.7 litre V6 from its master, Peugeot.

Partly because the engine is so agreeably smooth and quiet, the car never feels laboured and if the automatic box takes a little edge off acceleration, a 0 to 60 mph figure of 11.5 seconds is a good average for the class. The automatic kickdown gives rapid acceleration from top gear (30 to 50mph in under five seconds) and the claimed maximum speed of 115 mph is an indication of how relaxed the car is at our motorway limit. Fuel consumption came out at a creditable 21mpg in town and 25mpg on the open road.

Citroëns are unlike any other car to drive and are apt to produce extreme reactions, for and against. The Vari-power steering system, certainly, needs getting used to; as the name implies, it is power-assisted and the amount of feel increases with speed. It is also very responsive, high-geared and with strong self-centring, and must be used carefully if the car is not to behave like a dodgem.

The CX brakes used to have a similar characteristic, requiring a very light touch indeed if the car was not to be brought up with a jerk. They have since been modified to give a more progressive response. Despite considerable roll on corners, roadholding is reassuringly safe and there is little understeer. The all-independent hydropneumatic suspension, which adjusts automatically to the load carried, gives a soft and comfortable ride.

The car offers plenty of legroom, though the low roofline may press on tall passengers (the driving seat has height-tilt adjustment). The seats, in keeping with the suspension, are soft but well enough shaped to give good support. In the matter of instruments and controls, Citroën goes entirely its own way.

Whether the revolving drum speedometer and revolution counter are superior to the conventional type is arguable; the "piano key" minor controls, conveniently grouped at each side of the steering wheel, are excellent; but it is distracting to have to go to the roof for the heated rear window switch or the floor for heating and ventilation adjustment.

The last mentioned remains one of the main areas of criticism of the CX; a cool head is not compatible with warm feet. Another drawback is the small boot opening (why not a full tailgate?) and the boot is modest for the size of car.

Otherwise it is a splendid vehicle and the automatic should win it new admirers.

There are two automatic CX saloon models, the Pallas at £9,559 and the longer wheelbase Prestige at £12,290.

Peter Waymark

هكذا من الاصل

Persuasively truthful film of life in the old West

Heartland (A)
Paris Pullman

A Jury of Her Peers (A)
Paris Pullman

A Respectable Life (X)
Moulin

The Blood of Hussain (AA)
Gate Two

Inside Moves (AA)
Odeon, St Martin's Lane

Phobia (X)
Rank release



Conchita Ferrell and Rip Torn in *Heartland*

It is a more encouraging week than usual in the cinema, with four new films to prove that there is infinitely more pleasure and vitality in films that are made with talent and a passion to communicate something than in the run-of-the-mill, off-the-shelf commercial picture, entered into with all the spirit of setting up a finance corporation.

Heartland is an American film, financed with the equivalent of some £250,000 by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and directed by a former documentary film-maker, Richard Pearce. It is the story of a Denver widow who travels with her small daughter into rural Wyoming at the turn of the century to be housekeeper to a dour and careful Scottish rancher. She plans to farm on her own, but instead marries the rancher. A richer sort of affection grows only slowly in this unfavourable climate, as the two share privation and bereavement as well as the meagre compensations of the land.

The story is factual, based on the real-life reminiscences and letters of Elinor Pruitt Stewart. In their record of a year from summer to summer Richard Pearce and his writer Beth Ferris give a persuasively truthful picture of life in the old West, a tough, undramatic battle with the land and the elements.

The people seem as real as the place—though Rip Torn, as Mr Stewart, has something of a battle with both his beard and his Scottish accent. A new actress, Conchita Ferrell, enforces belief in Elinor as the combination of grit and humour that alone could have coped with the demands of the new lands. A distinguished old Viennese actress, Lilia Skala, and a perky little child actress called Megan Folsom are equally real as, respectively, her immigrant veteran neighbour and her daughter.

Good as it is, *Heartland* is almost eclipsed by the short film showing with it, Sally Heckel's *A Jury of Her Peers*, which I praised from the London Film Festival in November as a paragon of the filmed short story. It has subsequently been nominated for a Hollywood Academy Award.

Here, too, the setting is a turn-of-the-century rural community. A farmer's wife has killed her husband as he slept in their bed; and the local community leaders come to look for some motive for this inexplicable deed. Their wives, whose worn, impassive faces reveal that they have shared the same kind of unsparing, submissive existence as the guilty woman, prove to read the signs better than their menfolk.

The unknown players (chosen apparently from local theatre groups) are faultlessly cast. Rapidly sketched characters and deftly conveyed hints and gestures illuminate a whole way of life, and depths of unconscious oppression, patiently borne. If she can progress from this brilliant and compelling little masterpiece—far more satisfying than most current feature pictures—Sally Heckel promises to be a great film artist.

Twelve years ago Stefan Jarl, in collaboration with a fellow-graduate from the Swedish film school, Jan Lindqvist, made a documentary about teenagers knocking around the streets of Stockholm, *They Call Us Misfits*. A decade later Jarl went back to see what had become of some of the lively, aimless but not unlikable, youngsters who had then been on the perilous verges of delinquency. He found the survivors, almost to a man, defeated, sick, middle-aged before their time, hooked on drugs or drink, without a trace remaining of the old vitality and defiance of their teens.

Of the two characters who in 1969 had most caught the film-makers' interest one, Kenta, showed a degree of resilience, some survival of a rural sturdiness which moved him to muddled efforts at family connexions. The other, Stoffe, died of an overdose during the filming: Jarl unsparingly filmed the facts. Stoffe was in no way exceptional. During the time of filming, 11 young men died in the same lavatory on the railway station which is the centre of the world of Stockholm's lost.

Jarl's document is appropriately rough, and meagre in hope. The image he finds apt to preface this picture of the underside of contemporary Sweden is Breughel's *Great Plague*.

Maybe it has something to do with the curious communal nature of their creation that films have a way, from time to time, of exactly anticipating historical actuality. Jamil Dehlavi's *The Blood of Hussain* was conceived as an abstract essay on tyranny, predicating a purely fictional story of a military dictatorship and the eventual movement of revolution against it. A month after shooting was completed, the military coup in Pakistan seemed so exactly to reproduce Dehlavi's story that he and his film fell under grave suspicion; and it was only two or three years later, thanks to the removal of the material from Pakistan to London, that the film was completed. (It was first shown in the Cannes Directors' Fortnight in May and has since had a distinguished festival record.)

Finely shot by the British cinematographer, Walter Lassally, the singular texture of the film comes from Dehlavi's method of interweaving the main story with legendary elements from the life and martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of Mohammed, who was killed by the usurper Caliph Yezid 1300 years ago. The contemporary story concerns two brothers, both played by an outstanding actor, Salmaan Peerzada. Selim is an opportunist, ready to support the military government and to use the sexual appeal of his English wife to further his political ends. Hussain, touched as a child by something mythical, resists, in defence of the tyrannized peasantry.

The mythical elements are represented through documentary footage of Shi'ite Muslim ceremonies, and a mesmeric, recurrent image of a white stallion rearing up out of the earth itself. Dehlavi (who also acts in the film) has a remarkable eye for the telling image. All the possibilities of violent oppression are summed up in one terrible moment when a new-born child is exploded into bloody tatters by a single rifle shot.

After such showier exercises as *The Omen* and *Superman*, Richard Donner, in *Inside Moves*, tries his muscle on a small, intimate human subject, which turns out to be a good deal more demanding.

The theme is altogether creditable—the possibilities for the handicapped of leading normal and rewarding lives—but the script by Valerie Curtin and Barry Levinson is inadequate to it. The publicity for the film gives a very fair indication of the naive and transparent optimism of the film's approach: "the heart-tugging story of a group of people brought together by hardship, humour, love and a dream of winning ... (a) happy, nutty, wonderful group".

The central figure (John Savage) is a young man whose attempted suicide by defenestration leaves him physically crippled but emotionally so matured that he becomes the focus of the group of handicapped people who gather around Max's bar. He is able, even, to get the money for his best friend to have the operation to cure the bad leg which is the only barrier to a dream of becoming a baseball pro....

As director, Richard Donner has not skill or subtlety enough in dealing with the characters to cover up such artless contrivance. A historical curiosity in the film is the appearance of Harold Russell, a veteran who lost both hands in the Second World War, in his first film since his double-Oscar-winning performance in *The Best Years of Our Lives* in 1946.

There is nothing at all in *Phobia* to indicate that it is the work of John Huston, at his best one of the great Hollywood directors. This is a tired and predictable scenario, dutifully and dully filmed, no better or worse than any others of the run of commercial mystery and horror films currently being exported from Canada, where this one was made.

David Robinson

In Search of ... Athelstan
BBC 2

Miles Kington

Hands up all those who had heard of Athelstan. Hands up all those who knew that Athelstan (925-939) was one of the great English kings, if not the first king of all England. Nobody? Yes, Wood Good. Mike Wood not only knows, he has made a special study of the ineptly named Dark Ages and is dying to tell us all about it. So eager is he that even, when telling us stark historical fact, he finds it hard to keep a keen smile off his face. He has the same boyish enthusiasm as David Attenborough, though, when Attenborough rushes to far-off climes in search of little-known things, Wood chases to far-off times in search of little-known kings. The trouble is that time does a much better demolition job than distance, and there is very little tangible left for Wood to point out from Athelstan's time—a book or two, a woven relic, a bit of stone structure, and that is it.

So style has to be the answer. And these programmes are proving to rely on two very different styles, alternating disconcertingly quickly. One takes the informal shape of Mike Wood himself striding briskly up church paths, turning the pages of Athelstan's books, even descending from a helicopter, showing off his discoveries as proudly as any collector taking you through his treasures. The other—infinitely more grandiose and usually announced by thumping music, crashing waves or wonderful weather effects—comes from the *Star Wars* school of archaeology; in the opening minutes the commentary zapped us with Blitzkriegs, and armies being hammered, and spearheads, and military machines, and blow me down if there was not a disembodied Saxon sword floating through the air like a galactic missile.

It is all great fun at the time, but curiously the episode that sticks in my memory has nothing to do with Athelstan's military or cultural prowess: it is simply the sight of Wood crashing through the undergrowth following the lines of the estate granted to Athelgard, Athelstan's armour-bearer, Saxon charter clutched in his hand like a pre-Doomsday AA Guide. Battles may come and go, remote rituals be resurrected, but it is the one chap talking to us that makes the difference. I could have done with even more Mike Wood and rather less ghost campaiging, which left us feeling that England would never again have to fear the Vikings, a feeling which is due to be demolished in next week's programme on Ethelred the Unready. Crash! Bang! A Norse battle-axe floats across the sky! Does anyone know what this portends? Yes, Wood?

ECO/Zukerman
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Hilary Finch

If in these days of sneering at so-called box-office programming there has to be an excuse for putting on an evening of three of Mendelssohn's most popular works, then the Royal Philharmonic Society had one ready made.

It was at one of the society's early concerts in May, 1833, that the first performance took place of a "Sinfonia, composed expressly for this Society" by F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Now, in its 169th season, the society presented this fourth symphony (the Italian) on Wednesday as part of a series which celebrates the world premieres with which they have been associated.

It was the greater pity that Pinchas Zukerman and the English Chamber Orchestra seemed so eager to be through with the work. It had, it is true, that "fine flow of animal spirits" which the first night critic praised; and the brisk tempo of its third movement meant that the mist which often settles on its contours was lifted.

But the first movement's irresistible springing zest was blunted to a rough, albeit unflagging energy, the violins never quite sharply enough in the heart of their notes. And it was mean to omit the exposition's repeat. This work cannot live by rhythm alone: that element, very much to the fore on Wednesday (as aspiring conductors all around me were demonstrating) urged the second movement along with admirably decisive tread, but the lack of selection within the orchestral texture gave little opportunity to relish details on the way.

Mr Zukerman's hedonistic approach worked better in the *Midsummer Night's Dream* music. If there was little evidence of pale Hecate's team in the Overture and more of the drum majorette than the court of Athens in the March, the performance had a refreshingly bracing quality.

The 18 years that passed before Mendelssohn wrote his E minor Violin Concerto seemed telescoped on Wednesday in Zukerman's strongly projected but in the end lightweight performance. Despite the ECO's attentive and responsive playing his conducting from the bow seemed to distract him, particularly in the slow movement, from playing with that degree of deep assimilation which alone can move or give fresh insight.

Not that his dual role alone should explain away the apparent lack of will to search out more than the superficial expressiveness and structural enterprise of this work. We need to be shown that we take such well-known and well-loved music for granted at our peril.

John Ogdon
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

It is not always that the Wigmore Hall is as full, or its audience as warm hearted, as on Wednesday when John Ogdon returned to give a piano recital in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. Although mainly compounded of shorter pieces, the programme *in toto* was long and taxing, and he played it with unflagging ebullience.

Schubert's well-known Impromptus, op 90, came first, all four of them done with an insistent enough drive and boldness of tone to suggest a Beethoven looking over Schubert's shoulder. The first in C minor was particularly firm and strong. If in the second and fourth of the set Mr Ogdon grew a little excitable too soon, instead of holding more in reserve for their stormier episodes in minor keys, the rippling right hand figuration of the main sections was unfailingly fluent. Grieg's four *Album Leaves*, op 28, found him more relaxed. Here his playing had a winning lyrical charm while catching all the music's caprice.

Scriabin's dreams and visions have always been close to his heart, and in the Eight Studies, op 42, chosen to end the first half he caught the essential phantasmagoric nature of the inspiration even if texture was sometimes confused by inattentive pedalling. The best of the set was the simple, lyrical No 4 in F sharp major, beautifully shaped and sung.

Always an explorer, he returned after the interval to introduce London to "Captain Feckhtenburger of the Space Patrol" by the American, Stephen Suber (born 1950), an oddity (including a whistle and percussive tapping) doing justice neither to the world of strip-cartoon nor Bach's "48" allegedly inspiring it. For Mr Ogdon it was not the best preparation for a group of Chopin's Mazurkas either, which emerged over-capricious in rhythm and forced in tone, with all too little contrast between loud and soft. But Liszt's *Don Juan* Reminiscences allowed us to enjoy more of this pianist's panache in its irresistible tunes and sumptuous chordal challenges.

My Brother, My Sisters
Covent Garden

John Percival

Kenneth MacMillan told me that his ballet *My Brother, My Sisters* is based on a real family, but the way they drive each other mad is so far outside most people's experience that it can look melodramatic unless the performers carry absolute conviction. In that respect the Royal Ballet's production has never fully matched the Stuttgart original, but it moved closer on Wednesday with Stephen Jefferies playing the brother.

His dancing of the hectic solos has a ferocity that proves no less exciting than Wayne Eagling's dare-devil acrobatics, and his acting is in a class of its own. He not only reveals the character of his own role, but stirs up the rest of the cast too. You can see insanity spreading like an infection among the sisters whose closed community he dominates.

Marguerite Porter, new as the first sister, lets the character sometimes come perilously close to that of tragi-comic Julia in *A Wedding Bouquet*, but never quite oversteps the mark, and she gets the essential point of letting evil show through silliness. Unfortunately the drama dissipates through Wendy Ellis's presentation of the second sister as a dowdy nonentity, missing the seriousness her predecessors in the part found as an exception to the family's incestuous frivolity.

Genesia Rosato, one of the excellent trio of younger sisters, was also among another batch of newcomers in *Daphnis and Chloe*. Her Lykanion is, I think, the nearest I have seen to Violetta Elvin's prototype, sexy but choosy, with a devastating hint of amusement at her success. Graham Fletcher's Bryaxis is sharply and vigorously danced. Jennifer Penney will get by as Chloe if she finds herself a less aging wig, but for the ballet to do more than get by it needs dancers abotu ten years younger in the title parts.

Façade, luckily, is indestructible, although it creaked a bit at Ellis's stiff and genteel polka. Rosalyn Whitten's milkmaid, however, is a joy, from her predatory entry and lascivious straddling of her milking stool to her rueful exit when the three moutaineers fail to come up to expectation.

Orkney's range of new music

Two new music-theatre works by Peter Maxwell Davies will be among the premières at this year's St Magnus Festival on Orkney, which runs from June 19 to 23. Davies, who now lives for 10 months of the year in the Orkneys, is producing new works at a great rate and among those to be heard in the festival he founded is *The Medium*, written for the singer Mary Thomas.

He says he is really sticking his neck out with the work: "It is 45 to 50 minutes of solo voice, and nothing else." He describes the piece as "frighteningly ambiguous", and, with Miss Thomas having to portray a wide range of characters in a series of trances, he says it will give her "an acting and singing vehicle more demanding and extreme than any I have created before."

There will also be a short music-theatre work for school children, *The Rainbow*, written for Stromness Primary School, and incidental music for a new play, *The Well*, by the local author, George Mackay Brown.

Davies's new seven-movement piano sonata, which receives its première at the Bath Festival in May, will be repeated by Stephen Pruslin at Stromness, and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Jerzy Maksymiuk will be presenting a new work by Judith Weir. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky will conduct a new short choral piece by Davies, and will also give a four-hands piano recital with his wife Victoria Postnikova.

Entertaining Mr Sloane
Lyric, Hammersmith

Ned Chaillet

What Dave King has written about himself in the programme for *Entertaining Mr Sloane* suggests he is dismissive of his talent. Harking back to his days as a comedian, he offers a brief, corny comic turn in place of the usual showbusiness biography. It may please him to be dismissive, but Mr King has become an acting talent to be reckoned with and valued. When he appears on stage, the focus shifts to him just as though he had tilted the floor. Without cracking a smile, he suddenly has the air ringing with laughter. For all I know, he may not think of what he does as acting. Faced with Joe Orton's dialogue, he may simply be striding through the jokes like a night-club comedian. But he is masterful in his creation of a character.

He has created memorable characters before, in *American Buffalo* on stage and recently in the film *The Long Good Friday*. What he does, he does with restraint and a comprehension that communicates itself directly. As the business-minded brother of young Mr Sloane's landlady he is totally in command of the play. Barbara Windsor is silken, silly and laughably seductive as she offers Mr Sloane something more than lodging and Glyn Grimstead has a sullen baby-faced appeal that turns Mr Sloane into a dangerous sexual commodity, but Mr King has more of comedy and more of danger in his very stillness.



Barbara Windsor, Dave King — Photograph by Donald Cooper

That bolsters the reality of Orton's first play, the only one of his plays which can stand much reality. With an always present tension in Mr King's role, the fact that the young man is a recognizable murderer is somehow less jarring. Mr Sloane may believe he has control of the household, sexually servicing the sister, wearing a leather uniform for the more restrained brother and regularly beating the elderly father (a well-judged portrayal by David Blake Kelly), but it is obviously a delusion indulged.

Some tension is sacrificed in the final act by the reasonableness of Mr King's behaviour, his cynicism as a businessman being so evident. Yet Kenneth Williams has seized on the acting to make the play more insidious. His production has the horrible distinction of making such lives seem ordinary. Nothing seems bizarre, except the perfect exaggeration of bad taste in Saul Radomsky's design. The production is splendid in its nasty normality.

Crispino e la comare
Collegiate

William Mann

There cannot be many original operas credited to two composers at once, but such is the case with four works in which the brothers Luigi and Federico Ricci collaborated. The last of them was *Crispino e la comare*, composed for Venice in 1850 to a libretto by Piave, who described it a "fantastic and jocose melodrama".

Crispin and the Fairy Godmother won popularity on both sides of the Atlantic. Bernard Shaw caught a revival in London towards the end of the century, and dismissed it as "miserable stuff": it must have been greatly abbreviated, since it shared a double bill with the first London production of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*.

Two years ago it was given at Wexford Festival with Sesto Bruscantini and proved a delightful surprise. Now, in racy English translation by Rodney Blumer, Phoenix Opera have brought it to Camden Festival, where again the boisterous, lilting score and the curious, rather sardonic comedy provide an evening of genial fascination.

Crispin, a penniless cobbler in Venice, is prevented from drowning himself by a fairy godmother who gives him money and orders him to set up in practice as a doctor to revenge her on all pretentious quacks. Her guidance brings him outstanding success as well as the hatred and envy of the medical profession. Pride brings him to a crucial encounter with his protectress who reveals herself as Death. Like Tom Rakewell, Crispin escapes fate: he is restored to his family for a happy ending—it was a bad dream.

At Wexford, Crispin ended as a poor cobbler once more. Camden's producer, Tom Hawkes, brings him back to life still in the smart attire of the fashionable medico, and in the grand house he had acquired by his triumphs. The solution sets us wondering when Crispin fell asleep, but the music of the Ricci brothers, closely reminiscent of Donizetti at his most frivolous, bids us not fret much over the dramatic contents.

There is brio galore in James Judd's musical direction, here as in Ireland; the London cast also inherits Bonaventura Bottone's amorous Tuscan lordling, sensibly enough. The major success of Phoenix's cast is Gordon Sandison's twinkling, agile Crispin, a first-rate comedian with a thoroughly agreeable baritone, formerly a favourite in Scottish Opera whence also comes Donald Maxwell, whose jovial charlatan Fabrizio plays the arbitrating role in the scene when Crispin is assailed by the local apothecary. Michael Rippon completed the trio for this winning musical number, which had to be encored, as in Wexford.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Book review

Lead with the Left

My First Ninety Six Years

By Manny Shinwell

(Cassell, £6.95)

Old men forget, said Shakespeare, but of course they do not. They (perhaps we?) remember fondly, often mellowly, maybe selectively, and, at best, match the pleasure of an audience in the sound of their own voices. Lord Shinwell, if the absurdity of arithmetic makes him out to be 96 and therefore past his prime, establishes the point in another volume of personal and political memories. On this occasion, as a concession to age, he dictated his story, and the slightly lax discipline gives his book the effect of sustained conversation, with each chapter marking a pause to refill his pipe.

Readers will quickly note an oddity or quirk. On this evidence no politician could be more charming, understanding, open-minded, or sweetly reasonable than Manny Shinwell, yet he repeatedly drops hints that he was sometimes less than loved by his colleagues in Labour politics and at times suffered undeserved unpopularity or some calculated injury. The fact is that Manny Shinwell, the boy boxer of Glasgow, the Clydeside militant, the trade union organizer who did time in prison, always gave as good as he got, and until age mellowed him he would fight his corner and intrigue against all comers. He was and (praise be) continues to be a Cockney survivor, with a superadded Glasgow accent.

He carries with him as he walks, like his colleague in the Lords Fenner Brockway, the history of the Labour movement he joined 77 years ago. He was the Clydeside MP who in 1922 proposed that Ramsay MacDonald should replace Clynes as Labour leader and thereby made MacDonald Prime Minister in 1924; he was the party loyalist who in the 1935 general election knocked MacDonald out in Seaham (later Easington).

In 1924, within two years of his election to the Commons, Shinwell became a junior Minister for Mines under MacDonald, and in 1929 Financial Secretary, War Office. In the Attlee Administrations, 1945-51, he served as Minisrer of Fuel and Power, Secretary of State for War, and Minister of Defence. His career then sank into a rather embittered decline, with the loss of his seats on the Opposition front bench and on the Labour national executive committee. Before he went to the House of Lords in 1970 to find a new lease of happy political life, he had to console him only three rather despotic years as the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, of which he was the undisputed elder statesman.

There was a time, I am sure, when Manny Shinwell looked down the arches of the years and thought himself hard done by, not only by the chances of life and politics but also by his party. He felt himself to be—and was—capable of more service at an age when nobody would give him an insurance policy for purely actuarial reasons, and the bitterness sometimes showed.

Yet his has been a remarkable career: the poor Spitalfields Jew of mixed Dutch and Polish emigré origin, with scant schooling and a feckless father, who had little except courage, pugnacity, and an unsoured sense of justice to make his way in life. He could have used his native gifts to pile up a personal fortune, or to become a destructive left-wing agitator. He chose instead, as his admired Winston Churchill did not fail to note, to become a constitutionalist and a patriot, who still has words of wisdom for the Labour Party if only the new generation were as willing to learn as they are to teach.

David Wood

Michael Leapman on the American intervention in El Salvador

The flaws in Mr Reagan's Central American line

Given that United States policy in El Salvador is an exercise in *realpolitik*, the relevant question to ask about it is: "Will it work?"

The short-term answer is yes, at least in the military sense. There is little doubt that even the conservative amount of aid and training proposed can make a decisive impact on the small-scale civil war, preventing a victory for the Marxist guerrillas, even if not assuring their comprehensive defeat.

Yet whether the policy will have the desired long-term effect, of permanently ruling out a leftist takeover in El Salvador and its Central American neighbours, is a harder queston, bristling with imponderables.

The strength of the left in Central American derives from decades of corrupt and uncaring rule by military dictators concerned chiefly with the maintenance of their power and privileges. In El Salvador hasty attempts at land reform over the past two years may have had some effect in diluting mass support for the guerrillas, but they have been too mild and have come too late to appease the hill fighters themselves.

By kidnapping businessmen for ransom and by frequent armed robberies on the streets, the guerrillas have raised enough money to buy modern arms on the open market. That is where they say their weapons come from: they deny the authenticity of documents released by the State Department which suggest that communist allies have supplied their arms.

The failure of their "final offensive" in January suggested that the left has less support in the towns than its leaders had hoped. In areas of the countryside which they occupy, however, they enjoy wide acceptance and collaboration from the peasants.

Reporters who have travelled into guerrilla enclaves describe them as fully functioning self-governing communities outside the jurisdiction of the army and police. They do not observe the 9 pm curfew which applies in the rest of the country.

By contrast, when the army occupies a former guerrilla village, the people leave because of well-founded fear of reprisals. They either slink into the hills with the fighters or flee to refugee camps inside and outside the country. With some 30 people being killed every day—mainly suspected leftists shot by right-wing "murder squads"—their apprehension is understandable.

*For this reason an American-*backed military victory over the guerrillas would be no lasting solution to the country's problems. That would have to be negotiated between the factions and may require a level of trust which does not exist, a real and sustained effort at capturing hearts and minds.

The phrase comes from the Indo-China conflict and angers American diplomats who claim to see no similarity between El Salvador and Vietnam. There are clear differences, chiefly in the scale of the conflict and the level of the American commitment, yet in a broad sense there is one important comparison to be made.

A built-in weakness (or strength, as many would have it) of American diplomacy is that it is in the last resort answerable to Congress and the people, a handicap which does not afflict its totalitarian opponents. The United States had to withdraw from Vietnam because its people were no longer prepared to sacrifice the lives of their sons.

Though no American servicemen are engaged in the El Salvador fighting, continued American support for President Duarte's junta could become untenable for other reasons. The more the monster American press corps there reports right-wing atrocities, apparently condoned by the security forces, the more questions will be raised by the public about whether support should continue.

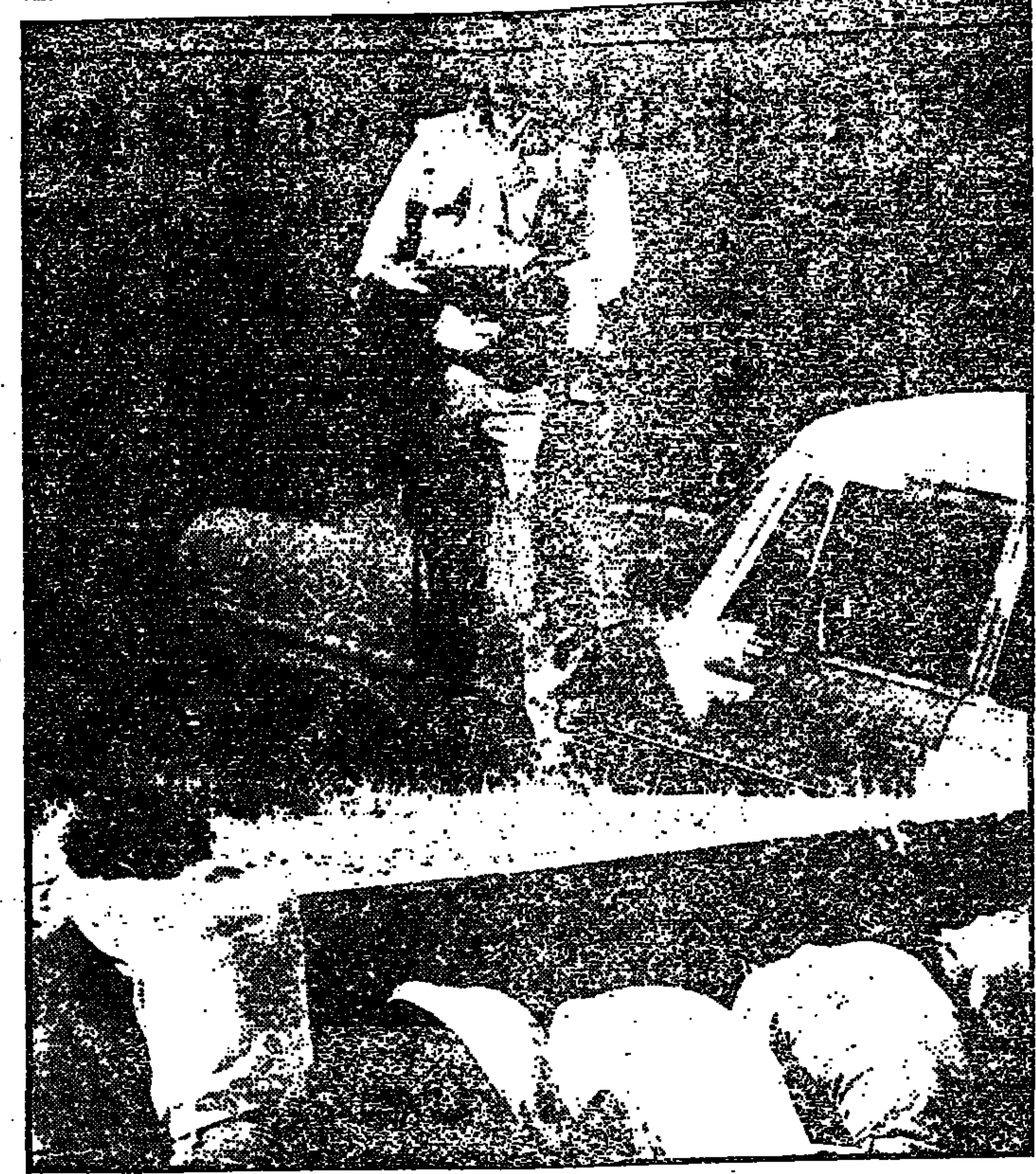
The Reagan Administration sees the conflict in strict "our side, their side" terms. It has renounced President Carter's approach, with its stress on human rights, saying it is not Washington's business to ensure that its client governments behave better. Yet if "our side" continues to act atrociously, Americans will not necessarily continue to share that vision.

The difficulty of choosing sides in this volatile part of the world is illustrated in nearby Nicaragua. When the Sandinista rebels ousted General Somoza in 1979, the junta they formed was a coalition of left and right. The Americans, pleased at the departure of a dictator so blatantly corrupt, weighed in with substantial aid.

Since then the junta has been moving to the left, although one of its three members is still a conservative. The Americans have now suspended aid because of Nicaragua's role in supplying arms to the El Salvador guerrillas. It is a moot point whether it will be resumed, particularly following the events of last weekend when the main opposition party was prevented from holding a rally because of intimidation by government supporters.

The permanent withdrawal of American aid would drive Nicaragua into the clutches of the Cubans. "When the West writes us off, the moderates in this country will be dead", Mr William Baez, the executive secretary of the Private Enterprise Organization, said. If that were to happen, America's only recourse would be to give clandestine military assistance to right-wing resistance groups, fomenting further instability. Some are already reported to be training in Florida.

For a newly-installed administration in Washington, the issues in Central America must have appeared refreshingly simple. The clear course of action, as they saw it, was to support the friendly forces of the right against subversive, communist-inspired assaults from the left.



In San Salvador, a soldier holds five leftist People's Front members at gunpoint.

That approach ignores the social and historical circumstances which gave birth to the revolutionary movements. It preempts the option of coming to terms with genuine reformist regimes and thus keeping them within the Western sphere of influence.

By committing the United States firmly to supporting the right in El Salvador, President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, his Secretary of State, have flamboyantly shown where they intend to draw the line against communism. Whether the line, once drawn, can ultimately be held, is an open question.

Sexual deviation: fantasy and fact

Yesterday Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, explained the decision not to prosecute Sir Peter Hayman and nine other people under the Post Office Acts for sending pornographic literature through the mail. Here Dr Tony Smith, Medical Correspondent, considers whether the use of pornography subjugates or fuels sexual desire.

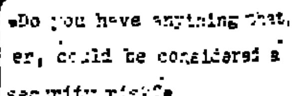
Like capital punishment, com prehensive education and nuc lear power, pornography is a topic on which most people hold strong opinions—but facts are hard to find. In western countries, both hard and soft core books and films have be come more readily available in the past 20 years in parallel with a general relaxation in sexual morality and an increase in the reported crimes of sexual violence.

Those synchronous trends provide no basis for conclusions about cause and effect. Many sex criminals have been avid collectors of pornography but again their psychological abnormalities may have been the reason for their collection rather than the result. Nor can much weight be placed on the age-old reliance by prostitute on pornographic pillow book to stimulate their clients pharmacologists have show that the equally traditiona aphrodisiacs have no bioche mical effect on sexual desire o performance.

So whether pornograph helps a sexual deviant to sul limate his desires or fuels ther by providing fresh fantasie remains a matter for disput among psychologists. Some pe suasive evidence has come fro sex therapists who have show that an individual's sexu behaviour can be channelle into a new direction by combi ing the appropriate fanta with masturbation. Much mo research has been done on th closely related theme of vi lence and especially the effe on children of books and tel vision films portraying violenc Here the evidence is fairly co sistent and based on we designed research studies.

Children who spend hou watching television programm with a high content of beatin shootings and other violen have been shown to be mo aggressive in their own beha iour immediately afterwar and in the long term. Televisi violence is not cathartic; i stead it seems to lower t threshold of acceptability a encourages imitative behaviou Indeed the strength of t research findings has led repeated calls by doctors for reduction in TV violence.

Some distinction may perha be drawn between pornograp *that portrays consenting* b haviour and that portrayi sexual violence and exploi tion; but the conclusion to b drawn from psychologic studies in that pornography any kind is likely to reinfor the tastes of the viewer reader—and if those tastes a deviant that may be dange ous for society.







How equal is the civil service?

The Government's recent refusal to introduce a system to monitor the number of people from ethnic minorities in different grades in the civil service is the latest episode in a continuing political controversy, comparable in its way to the decision, after public protest, not to include an ethnic question in this year's census.

Ethnic monitoring in the civil service has been exercising race relations experts for years but it has now won a large measure of support from organizations, academics and, perhaps most important of all, from the main civil service trade unions.

The Government is still unconvinced. The argument in favour of monitoring is essentially pragmatic: how can you know whether an equal opportunities policy (which the civil service has had since 1969) is working effectively unless you keep a check on numbers? Numbers will not tell the whole story. In fact they can do nothing more than raise questions such as "Why are no blacks employed at this level?"

As Mr Alex Lyon, Labour MP for York, said repeatedly to witnesses called before the Race Relations and Immigration Sub-committee of the House of Commons, you cannot begin to ask such questions until you have the statistics.

It is an argument which is difficult to refute. It is clearly impossible to be sure that a policy is effective unless you check its effect. That is the reason for the recent protests by the race relations industry. Monitoring is now seen as a kind of virility symbol, and the Government's rejection of it a sign that it does not care about eliminating racial discrimination.

There may be some truth in this. But there are other methods of reviewing an equal opportunities policy as well as genuine worries about how the monitoring should be done. Do you have a comprehensive head count throughout the civil service or do you have selective monitoring? Do you ask people to tell you their ethnic origin or does the employer decide what it is?

In his letter to the civil service unions, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, could have been more positive about the idea without committing himself to immediate or expensive action. Since then Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, has put a different gloss on the matter.

Speaking in the Race Relations and Immigration Subcommittee, he said Mr Hayhoe's letter did not mean the Government was dead set against monitoring. It was a rare case of the Home Office appearing more progressive than the Civil Service Department.

More research could be on the cards, but this time it would have to be some kind of pilot monitoring exercise. Two-and-a-half years ago a Government-commissioned report from the Tavistock Institute drew attention on the importance of monitoring. It suggested that black applicants in the civil service did less well than whites and pointed out potential hazards to fairness in civil service engagement procedures.

The Governmernt is probably right to be cautious about what kind of monitoring is introduced (though it has little excuse for delaying on commitment to the principle). The issue is extremely sensitive. Many people, both black and white, remain sceptical about the use to which information about ethnic minorities could be put by a malevolent state.

But the Government's principal grounds for refusing to act, that it would cost too much money, and was therefore not the most cost-effective way of ensuring equality of opportunity, was the feeblest of all.

It is easy to over-emphasize the value of monitoring but, as the Commission for Racial Equality has pointed out, an equal opportunities law is worthless unless it is enforced. That can be done in various ways, but monitoring must be an important element. It is the way to achieving equality, not an end in itself.

Black groups believe that if the Government were to take it seriously it would be setting an example for all companies and official bodies throughout the country. It would show its critics that it was concerned about rooting out racial discrimination in its own backyard.

Lucy Hodges

Geoffrey Smith

Why a Liberal alliance is so critical for the new party

Now that the Social Democrats have at last named the day, what are the chances of March 26 proving to be a memorable date in the history of British politics? They have certainly managed the run-up to the launch of the new party with considerable skill, aided by quite a bit of luck. There has been such a sequence of events that a strong sense of momentum has been built up. Even this week they have had two further parliamentary recruits, one from the Labour benches, one from the Conservatives.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler's decision is particularly interesting because at first glance it may seem a little surprising that it is Social Democrats whom he has chosen to join. It is not really so unexpected that he should leave the Conservatives. He is a man of notably independent spirit who has been ill at ease in their ranks for some years. He could never fit comfortably into a party led by Mrs Thatcher. The Budget simply provided an issue of sufficient consequence to persuade him to take the dramatic step.

But why did he not join the Liberals? They would surely have provided a more natural home for a defecting Tory than his present resting place, where he finds himself alongside 13 former Layour MPs all protesting that they have left the Labour Party not because they have changed but because it has.

One reason he has not become a Liberal must surely be that he will stand a better chance of holding his seat as a Social Democrat with Liberal support, rather than the other way round. By the last election he had changed Norfolk North West from a very marginal constituency into one with an 8,000 Conservative majority. But there were still nearly 26,000 Labour voters, compared with only 6,500 Liberals. As redistribution will remove quite a slice of Conservative voters before the next election it is clear that if he is to hold the seat he will have to win over many former Labour supporters as well as those Tories who will support him on personal grounds.

But another reason Mr Brocklebank-Fowler has preferred the Social Democrats has more national significance. He has spoken of the added attraction of a new party. It would probably be a fair deduction to say that he believes the Social Democrats to be a potentially stronger and more credible party than the Liberals, provided they form an alliance with the Liberals.



Mr Brocklebank-Fowler: a surprising recruit.

These questions of credibility and of an alliance will be critical to the prospects of the new party, and they are interrelated. It has been evident from the opinion polls for some years that there is a good deal of support available for a moderate centre-left party in this country. The question has been who would best be able to tap that support. The Labour Party has all the advantages of being established in strength. But they have the weakness, shared by major left-wing parties in other countries, that while their voters want moderately left-of-centre policies their activists want something more far-reaching.

The German Social Democrats are experiencing this difficulty at the moment. In the United States the Democrats have suffered from their McGovernites.

So the British Labour Party is not alone in its problems. But it is its weakness that leaves a gap for another party that would have the additional advantage of not being tied either to the trade unions or to socialist dogma. The Liberals would be the obvious candidates, except that by themselves they have never been strong enough to be quite credible in the parts. That is why the polls have often showed that more people would vote for them if they were thought to have a chance of winning a general election.

The strength of the Social Democrats is that they do have greater credibility. Mr Brocklebank-Fowler's decision was to some extent an acknowledgement of this. It comes partly from their greater political weight and experience as individuals. They have four recent Cabinet ministers, whereas no Liberal MP for more than 30 years has had experience of office. There will now be 14 Social Democratic MPs in the House of Commons, compared with 11 Liberals. There may even be further defections to the Social Democrats in due course. It would not be surprising to find some more Labour members going over to them, and it is conceivable that three or four Conservatives might do so.

The greater credibility of the Social Democrats is also reflected in and sustained by the opinion polls. The polls show that support for some kind of centre party has grown markedly as it has been realized that a new party would be formed. And their strength in the polls has forced everybody to take the Social Democrats more seriously.

The polls have also confirmed how much depends on an effective alliance being formed with the Liberals. The portents here are conflicting. Among Liberals in the country the tide is flowing more strongly in favour of an alliance. But among Liberal MPs there is some unease at what seems to them the difficulty of cooperating with the Social Democrats. This resentment was evident at the meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party on Wednesday evening.

There are the weekly meetings of the coordinating committee, usually consisting of Mr David Steel and Mr Alan Beith for the Liberals, and Dr David Owen and Mr John Roper for the Social Democrats. But there have been no formal or even social meetings between all Social Democrats and Liberal MPs. The Social Democrats have declined a proposal that they should all meet for dinner.

Liberal resentment is focused upon Dr David Owen, the Social Democrats' parliamentary chairman, who is thought to be too arrogant and dismissive in his dealings with them. These difficulties ought not to prevent an effective alliance being formed. But if the Liberals are taken too much for granted then the resistance to the alliance, which remains an undercurrent within the party, could block it.

This is one of the principal uncertainties governing the prospects of the Social Democrats. Another is that they will be exceptionally vulnerable to the accidents that can befall all political parties. An established party can shrug off the odd blunder or mischance. But for the Social Democrats that could easily be taken as evidence that after all they were not credible.

If they can avoid these pitfalls, however, then in association with the Liberals they will stand a good chance of making their mark on the British political scene. Despite the polls, they are unlikely to win the next election: established voting habits are too ingrained for that. But the development of British society, and indeed of British politics in recent years, suggests that there is a place for such a party as more than a convenient vehicle for occasional protest.

MOSCOW DIARY

It seemed an odd place for an art exhibition. A hand-written notice on the ground floor door of a 14-storey block of flats directs you to an entrance in the courtyard round the corner. Inside you buy a ticket from a makeshift office and make your way down the concrete stairs and along a narrow corridor into the basement. A uniformed policeman stands at the door, the sound of loud western pop music drums out and a big crowd, still in their coats and scarves, is pushing and jostling around the three small rooms.

There are no advertisements or posters outside. But any passer-by can direct you to 28 Malaya Gruzinskaya, the semi-official centre for Moscow's semi-official artists.

Not only literally is there a curiously underground feel to the place. None of the paintings has been accepted for display anywhere else. The themes are clearly "unofficial"—openly religious works, surrealist and super-realist treatment of traditional Russian themes, symbolic representations of good and evil, a few semi-abstract compositions.

None of them would excite much interest in London or Paris. Many appear narrow and rather derivative: Salvador Dali has clearly struck a responsive chord. But here in the Soviet Union, where all art is strictly controlled and prescribed canons of taste dominate, those who venture out on their own do so at considerable personal risk. This gives their works a symbolic importance to a public who appear to lap up anything that is not officially sanctioned, to the cultural authorities, who see ideological challenges in every brush-stroke, and to the artists themselves, who have fought long bureaucratic battles to enjoy a *succès de scandale*.

This is the fourth public showing of works by 20 avant-garde painters since the famous unauthorized open-air exhibition in the summer of 1974 that was broken up by police using bulldozers and water cannon. After the embarrassment caused by the publicity and the subsequent outcry from overseas, official tactics changed, and the artists have been tolerated.

They have been allowed to attach themselves to a specially formed section of the Moscow city committee of the Graphic Artists' Union, set up to accommodate them after the 1974 fracas. The headquarters are in the same building where the exhibitions are held. Without the protection of the union the artists could be arrested for "parasitism" or failure to hold legitimate employment and could be forbidden to show their works.

As it is they have had sharp disputes over censorship. Before the present exhibition watchdogs from the Ministry of Culture removed several paintings by one strictly religious artist, Vitaly Linitsky, saying they were religious propaganda which the law allowed only in churches. The paintings showed pussywillows, an emotive religious symbol in Russia, and candles against an industrial background. Linitsky protested that five striking paintings of the Crucifixion by another artist, Vladislav Provotorov, were allowed to stay. "They just show a myth," the officials retorted. "We don't want any new icons like yours."

The Daliesque Crucifixion paintings aroused a lot of comment among the audience — young people in sweaters and anoraks, middle-aged women carrying shopping bags, even the occasional army officer in uniform. One picture showed Christ horizontal against a blue-black sky, the huge, wounded soles of his feet pointing out at the viewer. Another showed Christ being whipped by bald and evil old men, and another of the Resurrection had him holding up huge, bloodied palms.

Provotorov was one of the leaders of the unofficial group. At the first exhibition in 1978 he was equally startling with three large canvasses of tortured decaying flesh, one of them entitled *Inquisition*.

Many of the paintings consciously referred to famous pictures: a painting of Calvary showed a mountain made up of Bosch-like symbols — an ear, shells, a knife, a church. *The Generation of Shepherds* had a landscape peopled by lizards and evil-looking reptiles. One artist, making fun of the famous painting of Venus at her toilette, showed a rather ordinary, haggard woman looking at her reflection in the mirror while a devil, not a cherub, gazes down from a nearby picture. There were twists on themes by El Greco and the legend of the birth of Venus—in this case a saccharine-sweet girl enclosed in a glass bell-jar sitting beside a manhole cover on an ordinary Moscow backstreet.

Many paintings impressed with their immense attention to detail. The crystal brilliance of super-realism seemed to be much in vogue, but there were also soft-focus views of ethereal onion-domes of Russian Orthodox churches and brilliant purple and maroon domes seen as geometric cloud patterns in the sky. Religious symbolism underlined much of the collection, but subjective themes such as loneliness probably also kept many of the works out of the state's official displays.

A number of the artists themselves were at the showing. A large book of comments was filled with appreciation: "Well done! Each exhibition is better and more complete", one woman wrote. Others went into detailed discussion of what they had seen as though they were writing a professional review.

Ironically when you emerge into the daylight you are immediately confronted with a scene that could have come straight from one of the paintings: opposite the block is a huge derelict church, now used as a state store for electric cables and equipment. A truck had drawn up in the grounds and some healthily atheist workers were unloading steel rods.

It happens that another quite different art exhibition is on in Moscow at the moment which could not be more official. Entitled "We are Building Communism", it opened in the central exhibition hall, a stone's throw from the Kremlin, to coincide with the recent party congress. I could not resist the contrast and went along to have a look.

In fact it was surprisingly rewarding. There were of course the ritual political obeisances: a giant bust of Lenin in front of a red flag as soon as you walk into the long, low hall, once used to stable the imperial horses. Oil portraits of Mr Brezhnev and posters with appropriate slogans about peace and international friendship dominate one corner of the building. But tucked away in the maze of dividing walls were paintings that seemed to me to deviate as far from socialist realism as any at Malaya Gruzinskaya.

The themes were entirely proper: oil-rigs in the frozen wastelands, spacemen in their quaint uniforms, workers casting the millionth ton of pig-iron, pioneers building the new trans-Siberian railway, peasants in Central Asia parading around the old Islamic monuments of Samarkand in celebration of Soviet power.

But the artists, most of whom were in their early thirties, had used what were clearly safe subjects to get in their own sometimes disturbing vision. Three young construction workers in the Far East had a bored and blank gaze as they looked across the empty Siberian landscape. A tiny figure on a camel riding across the desert was dwarfed by a huge, cold, unreal nuclear establishment with i three great globes, one which appeared to burn with steely flame. A portrait of thre Latvian architects had a uncanny feel of the secre police knocking at the door midnight: one dressed i bright casual clothes stoo indoors, while on the threshol stood two sinister figures, wea ing raincoats and painte entirely in grey.

Many Russian intellectual complain that painting, becaus it is visibly subjective an therefore deemed a suitabl medium to convey the righ political message, is less inter esting in Russia today than th less politicized applied art *such as theatre design.*

The official attitude doe seem still to have much of Khrushchev's famous remark that he liked pictures he could understand and music he could hum. But nevertheless, both officially and semi-officially, there now seem to be many interesting attempts to break out of the stereotyped moulds.

Michael Binyon



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TO THE RESCUE OF COMPUTERS

Yesterday's announcement of a government sponsored rescue package for ICL serves as a further reminder that in the mixed economy at a time of prolonged and severe recession it is difficult to pursue a coherent industrial policy of non-intervention. There were some in the Government when it came to office who held the excessively simple belief that public sector industry was by its nature inefficient and private sector industry by the same token efficient. Thus problems of industrial policy could be solved by returning as much of publicly owned industry to private hands as soon as possible.

Whatever the general merit of the proposition, the case of ICL has shown that in these difficult times it does not ensure that all such problems resolve themselves. For the Government instructed the National Enterprise Board to sell the public's 25 per cent holding in ICL to the private sector in 1979. The problem of ICL, however, was back in the Treasury court less than a year and a half later.

With the Prime Minister in her present mood, there is little likelihood of the Government changing its essentially hostile attitude towards the NEB. Yet, as the hard realities of industrial policy continue to press in upon Sir Keith Joseph at the Department of Industry, the case for a positive role for the NEB becomes progressively more persuasive.

In many ways it is a case of history repeating itself. The Heath government peremptorily abolished the previous Labour government's Industrial Reorganization Corporation, because it was a symbol of the kind of direct industrial intervention by Whitehall that was no longer in fashion. From the rescue of the insolvent Rolls-Royce onwards, it became clear that whatever their policy preference modern government in a mixed economy cannot avoid being drawn into industrial involvement of some kinds. When they do, an institution with specialized expertise in acting as the state's holding company has many uses.

Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph were not so extreme in dealing with the similar National Enterprise Board, which they inherited from the next Labour government. It was not abolished, but it was deliberately and effectively emasculated. Like the old IRC, the new NEB made several mistakes in its early days and aroused hostility. It seems probable, however, that, in its limited function as the Government's agent in monitoring the performance of companies which for one reason or another enjoyed the taxpayers' support, it is potentially more effective than the civil servants in the Department of Industry and the Treasury. Mrs Thatcher's government is clearly never going to use the NEB as an instrument of active industrial policy in, say, the manner of a Labour government. Its more passive function is, however, one which will have to be carried out under all governments for the foreseeable future.

Indeed, it is possible to argue that part of the Government's present difficulty has arisen because the deterioration in ICL's position has taken it by surprise. Since the NEB shareholding was sold there has been no direct early warning system to indicate that the company would be coming back to the Government for help on this scale. Further, government help has now to be in this politically embarrassing form rather than in the form of continuing NEB support.

Now that the Government and the taxpayer are once again directly exposed to the trading performance of ICL, it is clear that closer account will have in some way or other to be given to Whitehall of how the management of the company in future discharges its stewardship. This will have to be done directly via civil servants once again. History does not give cause for much confidence that the Civil Service is well staffed or trained to perform this function.

SIR PETER AND MR HENDERSON

The assertion by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, MP, that the Hayman affair is the biggest coverup of the century, eclipsing Watergate presumably, is the only hint of comic relief in a sorry tale. Mr Dickens is, of course, under attack for more than exaggeration. The Attorney General and Mr David Steel criticize him for bringing Sir Peter Hayman into public disrepute and for doing so by means of two Commons questions. They regard this method of disclosure as an abuse of parliamentary privilege. Their response is understandable. The spectacle of a distinguished diplomat disgraced in what should have been the happy seventh year of a well earned retirement from public service, invites a natural sympathy. His family certainly deserves it.

The Attorney General yesterday justified his earlier appeal to Mr Dickens to spare Sir Peter and his family public humiliation by explaining that Sir Peter was only one of seven men and two women who were spared prosecution following a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1978 that they had been engaged in correspondence of an obscene nature. Their correspondence had been in sealed envelopes, it was not for commercial gain, and none of the material was unsolicited. Sir Peter had subscribed to the Paedophile Information Exchange but that was not an offence and there was no evidence he had ever been involved in its management. For Sir Peter it might have been added, though the Attorney did not, that there is no evidence that he indulged his sexual fantasies, in correspondence or offensive behaviour, at any time when he was a diplomat and when he would certainly have been vulnerable to blackmail.

If this were all there is to the affair Mr Dickens would deserve rebuke. But it is not. The Attorney General signally fails to explain why Sir Peter was throughout allowed the protection of the pseudonym Henderson he used for obscene correspondence when his real name was known. Six people were called to give evidence at the PIE committal trial and seven others were on the witness list. One individual who began the correspondence with Sir Peter was called; Sir Peter was not. He was, moreover, named in court papers as Henderson.

This was a matter for the police. There may well be an innocent explanation; but that is not the point. It was an error, fuelling the suspicions of special treatment for a man in public life. That can never be tolerated. The penalty in public esteem for Sir Peter being named as a witness in a child pornography case would, of course, have been harsh, but that is an inevitable penalty of public life. Sir Peter has suffered punishment far beyond what might have been exacted for prosecution under section 11 of the Post Office Act, but there is a particular revulsion for anything to do with child pornography, and rightly so. Society is entitled to express its attitude to what is socially objectionable as well as to what is technically illegal. It is a pitiful affair, but Mr Dickens was right.

FRAMEWORK FOR AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE

There are still plenty of difficulties to be overcome before there is a full settlement of the Belize question. But this week's announcement of the terms of the agreement between Britain, Guatemala and Belize marks a big step forward on an issue that has been an irritant for many years. In the normal course of events Belize should have been independent long ago. It could not move to independence, however, because Guatemala, basing itself on arguments that went back to the period of the Spanish colonial empire, claimed it as part of its own territory. And Britain, faced with periodic military build-ups on the Guatemalan side of the border, has had to keep some 1,600 troops in Belize in order to deter a possible invasion.

In the agreement that they have now signed, the Guatemalans have given up their claim to Belize; and they have done so without getting a strip of territory in compensation. Cession of territory was something they had pressed for hard, in the past, and the Labour Government discussed it with them before an outcry here and in Belize put a stop to the idea. But in the latest round of negotiations it was made clear to the Guatemalans that there could be no question of handing over any territory. Instead, they were offered a number of economic advantages—free port facilities in Belize; territorial seas which will give them access to the Caribbean from their own north-eastern ports, the right to joint exploration for oil—and these they have now accepted, at least in principle.

The agreement still has to be turned into a treaty, and the heads of agreement which have been accepted in London translated into firm commitments. The whole package has also to be approved both in Belize and Guatemala, which will not be straightforward in either country. In Belize the main opposition party, the United Democratic Party, has accused the government of a "sell-out", and there was a riot this week after a demonstration by its youth wing. In Guatemala the agreement has been attacked by the National Liberation Movement, a rightist party, in much the same terms. But there is a fair chance that in both countries the terms of the agreement will eventually be accepted.

The main issue still to be settled is the defence of Belize, and whether British troops should remain after independence. In the past, Britain has taken the line that it could not assume responsibility for defending Belize after it became independent. But more recently it has let it be known that it was in fact prepared to protect Belize if Guatemala continued to threaten it after independence; and it was arguably that, coupled with the declared intention of bringing Belize to independence before the end of this year, which persuaded the Guatemalans to negotiate. They faced the prospect of an independent Belize, protected by Britain, and none of the economic incentives being offered them.

The hope must be that a treaty will in due course be signed, based on the London agreement, which will usher in civilized relations between Belize and Guatemala, so that defence will no longer be such a burning issue. It will be hard for Belize to be completely confident about its larger neighbour, with its record of political instability and its appalling policies of repression; and that means that Britain cannot entirely wash its hands of events in that part of Central America. But Guatemala has found itself almost entirely isolated in its claims on Belize. It also has serious difficulties of its own, at a time of upheaval in much of Central America, and can hardly want to add to them by going to war over Belize.

[F]ight on the beaches

[Fr]om Mr Ted Hughes

[Sir,] Mr P. M. Barlow's letter (February 20) emphasising that the [su]rrender of our inshore fisheries "up to the beaches" to foreign [fis]hing fleets would also include—[as] far as the stocks of salmon and [sea]-trout are concerned—the sur[re]nder of our rivers, should be set [in] its larger context and not read [sim]ply as a plea from the angling [int]erests and their dependent [ind]ustries.

Mr Barlow's anxiety is realistic. [As] the Irish have found, on some [riv]ers of theirs, a very few small [bo]ats, with the right gear, working [at] the estuary mouth, can empty [a] river of its salmon in five or six [ye]ars, and take most of the sea-[tr]out.

Granted that nobody is going to [do] much for our salmon without [fir]st doing something about the [pl]under of the stocks at sea, we [sh]ould not lose sight of the unex[pl]ored potential of these rivers of [ou]rs.

The story of recent salmon re[tur]ns in Alaska is instructive. In [th]e early 1970s, the breeding stocks [of] Alaskan rivers were protected [abs]olutely—an exceedingly unpop[ula]r measure at the time. Fishing [was] reopened as the rivers have [rec]overed, with the taking of fish tightly controlled each year on each river till the full breeding complement has escaped upstream. The results began to show by 1977 when the total Alaskan catch climbed to 49 million salmon. In 1980, the figure was estimated at 100 million. The Icelandic returns tell a similar tale.

What Alaska and Iceland have in common is that they claim absolute ownership of their salmon, and protect them at sea. But who can claim the ownership of British salmon?

In the light of these very recent developments in the management of sea-going salmon, it would evidently be sensible to retain control of our rivers and their inshore approaches. There need be nothing "selfish" about this. France and Spain and the rest can take advantage of the same, in their emptied rivers, as easily as we can in ours.

The Atlantic Salmon Trust's proposal to ban all taking of salmon at sea, and restrict the commercial harvesting to the surplus stocks at the river mouths, is clearly the answer. Assuming it can be policed, this plan would settle at one stroke the complicated international squabble over who owns which salmon in the sea. And it would open the way for each Atlantic European country to do as the Alaskans and the Icelanders are doing.

In the immediate crisis, the Atlantic Salmon Trust and its policy deserve the active support of everybody interested in the future of this valuable fish.

Yours faithfully,
TED HUGHES,
Moortown,
Winkleigh,
Devon.
March 4.

Celebrating a royal event

From Mr Claude R. Hart

Sir, There are surely two further benefits of a royal marriage at St Paul's. The route will unify, in celebration, the Cities of both London and Westminster. The length and directness of the route, via The Mall, Strand, Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill, will be both better from the spectator's and the television coverage's points of view.

Previous coronations have proved how lacking in splendour the streets around Westminster are.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
CLAUDE R. HART,
68 Bradbourne Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.
March 17.

Way ahead for Ulster

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton, Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Mr John Taylor, MEP, is of course quite right in his letter to you (March 17) in saying that the four main political parties in Northern Ireland have devolved government among their objectives. The trouble is that none of them seem able to agree with the other or in most cases among themselves what form such devolved government should take.

In the absence of any such agreement, and now that Mr Atkins has abandoned his initiative, would it not be better to press on with whatever steps are practical to limit the extent of direct rule by the Irish Office? The first of these is the enlargement of Ulster representation at Westminster, already a statute. The second would be the establishment of normal local government such as prevails in the rest of the kingdom. Another possible step forward might be to increase Ulster representation in the House of Lords.

Devolution is not, at the time of writing, much in favour in Great Britain. But, of course, if ever there were again a move towards devolution for Scotland and Wales—and I hope there will not be—Ulster, with its long experience of devolved government, would have a strong case for returning to it. Meanwhile any attempt to restore devolved government to Ulster alone, even if the Ulster parties and the Westminster Parliament could agree on its form, would inevitably be seen as diluting the unity of the kingdom.

As a Conservative I personally deplored the dismantling of Stormont. Whatever its imperfections it was a working concern and it is always dangerous to remove what works even with the intention of improving on it. But Stormont suffered from one grave disadvantage. It kept the best political brains of Ulster in Belfast instead of sending them to Westminster. Surely the province that produced a galaxy of field marshals in World War II and sustained statesmen of the calibre of Carson, Craig and Basil Brooke should have risen above the purely provincial level and had more of a say in the affairs of the United Kingdom as a whole. Britain is quite used to being governed by Scotsmen and Welshmen; but, in my time at least, there has never been an Ulsterman in the Cabinet. This is something Ulster should put right.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
March 18.

From Mr Eamon O'Kane

Sir, Brian Feeney of the SDLP (March 12) is unhappy that Mrs Thatcher has acknowledged once again the right of the Northern Ireland people to remain within the United Kingdom so long as that is their clearly expressed desire. The appelation "sectarian" which Dr Feeney attached to this statement must, perforce, be applied to the constitution of his own party since it also acknowledges that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland can only be changed with the consent of the people in the province.

The confusion does not end there. Dr Feeney goes on to claim that Mrs Thatcher failed to "nod in the direction of a substantial dissenting and disaffected minority in Northern Ireland (which the 1981 census will show to be bigger than ever)". The inference here must be that a very large minority in Northern Ireland are entirely opposed to living within the UK and that the 1981 census will demonstrate its growth. But how?

The 1981 census will not ascertain from people their attitude to the continued existence of Northern Ireland within the UK. That question was last asked in 1973 in the border poll and despite the exhortations of Dr Feeney's party to abstain, nearly 60 per cent of the electorate voted and of these, practically 99 per cent returned a vote in favour of remaining within the UK. In order to discover whether this situation has in fact changed, as Dr Feeney clearly implies that it has, should he not be calling for another border poll?

The 1981 census will ask respondents their religious affiliation, if any. Surely Dr Feeney is not suggesting that conclusions about peoples' views on the constitution can be so deduced from such census data? If that is the case, then the adjective "sectarian" can be more fairly applied to him since he is quite simply equating religious persuasion with political views.

Yours faithfully,
EAMON O'KANE,
Bristol Avenue, Belfast.

Reporting black unrest

From the Reverend David Stuart-Smith

Sir, I feel I should write in answer to Mr Alan Toop (March 11). My house was burgled recently and the culprits were white and three weeks ago I was involved with the mugging of an elderly lady by two white youths.

One of my congregation who teaches in Tulse Hill Comprehensive School tells me that they have more trouble from white boys than black because, on the whole, black families are more disciplined than white in that area, and added that Asian families seem to be the most disciplined of all.

Yours faithfully,
D. STUART-SMITH,
2 Thornton Road, SW12.
March 13.

Tunnicliffe collection

From Mr. H. H. F. Summerson

Sir, May I say how delighted I am that the Tunnicliffe collection is to be sold? We have heard too much about the "national heritage" and the "need to keep the collection together"—nebulous sentiments both. This sale gives the individual a rare and marvellous opportunity to acquire a treasure for himself.

Yours faithfully,
H. H. F. SUMMERSON,
3 Terrett's Place,
Upper Street,
Islington, N1.
March 17.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Soviet stance on disarmament

From Dr Philip Towle

Sir, We know hardly anything about the Soviet decision-making process, particularly as it affects the development of new weapons and the retention of old ones. Consequently it is very difficult for the West to influence these processes by unilateral disarmament gestures and we can rarely be sure that we have done so.

Mr Brezhnev responded to Mr Carter's decision to cancel or to defer the production of neutron weapons by announcing that the Soviet Union would not produce such weapons. But, apart from the Soviet leader's word, we have no idea whether the Soviet Union was ever thinking of producing such weapons or whether indeed it has them in its stocks today.

The United States ceased production of chemical weapons many years ago; most western defence forces believe that the Soviet Union has a large and growing stock of chemical weapons, but there are those in the West who dispute this and argue that the Russians have also stopped producing these weapons. Such arguments seem likely to continue almost indefinitely and may increase fears and tensions rather than the reverse.

Mr E. P. Thompson called (Letter, March 6) for a "rolling campaign of reciprocal initiatives", but its obsession with secrecy prevents the Soviet Union from taking such initiatives with weapons which are under development. Such secrecy would also prevent the West believing what the Soviet Union said about weapons under development or in stocks unless it could verify Soviet statements by satellite reconnaissance.

If secrecy hampers Soviet initiatives of the type proposed, it is difficult for the West to take disarmament initiatives in the many areas where the Soviet Union is making the running. E. P. Thompson argued that, if the West rejected Pershing II and cruise missiles and the Soviet Union did not "instantly halt and then reduce its SS 20s, the western unilateralist movement would at once lose popular support. In view of the fact that the Russians began deployment of SS 20 in 1977-78, whilst western missiles will still not be deployed for some years, it is difficult to see the logic of the argument and impossible to believe that the current unilateralist campaign will be influenced by the Soviet failure to respond.

In fact Soviet reactions to western decisions on medium-range ballistic missiles suggest that they are prepared to consider reductions only when the West clearly intends to build up its own forces. United States intermediate-range missiles were removed from Europe in the 1960s, but the Soviet Union has maintained its equivalent missiles to this day.

The Soviet Union rejected with ill-humoured mockery a Western proposal at the United Nations special session on disarmament that states should publish "detailed information about their armed forces". Nor is this very surprising but, until the Soviet Government becomes more forthcoming and moderates the pace of its drive for armaments, it is difficult to see how confidence in its intentions can increase. It is precisely because of these problems that Western governments have struggled for many years for multilateral arms control agreements. That the process is a slow one no one would deny: that unilateralism offers an alternative seems most unlikely.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP TOWLE, lecturer in defence studies,
Faculty of History,
West Road, Cambridge.

From Mr Tony Kerpel

Sir, The considered letter by Mr E. P. Thompson (March 6) sets out the new hybrid approach of "multinational unilateralism" advocated by European Nuclear Disarmament. This attempts to reconcile multilateral disarmament, which enjoys considerable public support, with unilateralism, which is regarded with considerable public scepticism.

The obstacle which this new approach does not overcome, however, remains the same as that on which previous initiatives have foundered, namely that the preconditions for the genuine dialogue between "popular opinion" in East and West called for by END simply do not exist in Eastern Europe.

As Roy Medvedev explained to Mr Thompson in their exchange last year: "There are no means in the USSR by which a 'general popular initiative' can be mobilized; we have no independent, free press, and no public movements independent of the control of the party and the Government. Neither the general public nor intellectuals can organize any kind of mass movement which expresses opposition to official policies. There are no public debates about new weapon systems, military budgets, new designs, their rationale and so on. I consider it to be unrealistic, at the present time, to expect that official Soviet policy will be changed as a result of open public debate and of pressure from below."

The conclusion that an East-West mobilization of public opinion would be, by definition, asymmetrical is reinforced when one reads authoritative pronouncements which leave no doubt as to the Soviet perspective on this question.

A recent article by Professor Major-General A. S. Milovidov of the Lenin Military Academy described nuclear missiles as "fearsome weapons of war" in the hands of "imperialism" but "a protective shield of peace" in the hands of the socialist states. The article rejected both pacifism and unilateral disarmament for this reason, and stated: "The Soviet Union cannot undertake the unilateral destruction of its nuclear weapons and indeed has no right to do so, as it is responsible to the peoples of the whole world for peace and progress. Marxist Leninists decisively reject the assertions of certain bourgeois theureticians who consider nuclear missile war unjust from any point of view".

Many people, as sincere in their desire for peace as Mr Thompson, will regretfully conclude that while those views hold sway in the East the prospects for successful neo-unilateral initiatives are minimal.

Yours faithfully,
TONY KERPEL,
Members' Room, The Town Hall,
London Borough of Camden,
Euston Road, NW1.
March 14.

Question of privilege

From the Director of the Nationwide Festival of Light

Sir, Mr Julian Fellowes raises two issues of considerable importance in his letter to you today (March 19). They are matters of wider import than whether or not an eminent man should have been prosecuted, or whether Mr Dickens exercised a proper use of parliamentary privilege.

The first question is whether it is appropriate in today's open society, with its high level of public knowledge, education and awareness of policies and persons, that the law officers of the Crown should exercise such wide discretion over the prosecuting process. In particular, the Attorney General has accumulated, in scores of isolated statutes, the right to prevent any private or police prosecution. Furthermore, the many instances in which the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided not to prosecute need never be made public, nor the grounds on which such decisions have been taken. It is right that this state of affairs should be highlighted, since it represents a real threat to the rule of law.

Secondly, Mr Fellowes supports the Attorney General in his opinion that the offence in question is "trivial"—buttressing this with some amateur psychology concerning the effects of pornography. The facts are that every year sees a fresh round of research reports indicating the disinhibiting effects of visual and verbal material of a violent and/or pornographic nature. In some cases this has measurable effects upon subsequent behaviour.

Public and postal traffic in such material is prohibited by national law and by an international convention. Can criminal legislation aimed at keeping the cultural climate pollution-free, and in particular at making the world a little safer for women, be dismissed as constituting "an offence so slight that it is beneath the official notice of the law"?

May I conclude by noting that I write as director of a body which has not rushed to support Mr Dickens in his action, either before or after he took it?

Yours faithfully,
O. R. JOHNSTON,
Nationwide Festival of Light,
21a Down Street, W1.
March 19.

Editor and proprietor

From Mr J. A. Leavey

Sir, Since those who buy newspapers consider that editors are at least as likely to be scoundrels as proprietors and to be even more opinionated, who has spread the gospel of editorial independence? Presumably it is editors and the great armies of those who gather news and views and serve them up with their own individual flavourings.

Moreover, had we not been indoctrinated to prefer the prejudices of editors rather than proprietors, *The Times*, *The Observer*, the London *Evening News* and a long sad string of others might not have gone broke. Certain it is that the behaviour of the editor of the *New Statesman*, as you describe it in your issue of March 6, and that of the editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, in the case of the alleged midnight visit of a girl to the royal train, does not suggest to newspaper readers that editors are more to be trusted than those who pay them. And these are only among the very few cases which come to light.

I hope the new owners, actual or prospective, of *The Times* and *The Observer* will not totally abandon their readers to the editors.

Yours truly,
J. A. LEAVEY,
10 Alexander Place, SW7.

From Sir Hugh Casson and others

Sir, As long-time readers of *The Observer*, we wish to convey our deep concern about the way in which this independent newspaper was to be sold without any consultation or public knowledge.

We believe that the continuity and integrity of a newspaper is of critical importance to readers as well as journalists; and we strongly urge that the transfer of ownership and the manner in which it was negotiated should be brought before the Monopolies Commission for public discussion.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CASSON,
HENRY MOORE,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1.
March 18.

Awkward squad

From Mr H. C. L. Fassnidge

Sir, Mr Laurence Cotterell's account (March 17) of the origins of "swaddy" or "squaddie" is ingenious but unfounded.

The word is much older than the swadeshi movement, which goes back only to 1905. Partridge's *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* traces it back to the 1860s as soldiers' and sailors' slang and as far back as 1708 as "swad" or "swadkin". As "swad" it occurs in Ben Jonson's *Tale of a Tub* (1633) to denote a short or *squat* person: at that time the word was coterminous with "country bumpkin" and by extension came to be applied later to the militia.

As a wartime serviceman I recall that the usage was more often than not "squaddie" and was generally applied mock self-deprecatingly by private soldiers to or about one another.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD FASSNIDGE,
Morgan Lodge,
St Margaret's Hill,
Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

Providing minority language TV

From Professor N. R. Garnham

Sir, The position being adopted by the Independent Television Companies Association towards the Welsh language fourth television channel (report, March 17) raises disturbing implications.

It is less than three months since these companies were granted the franchise for which they had applied under known conditions that included the arrangements for financing the Welsh language service. One hopes that the Independent Broadcasting Authority will remind the companies forcefully and publicly of this fact with the rider that they can, if they are dissatisfied, give up their franchises so that other arrangements can be made. I suspect it will be found that they need broadcasting more than broadcasting needs them.

The companies further argue that subsidizing such a minority service from revenues earned elsewhere is "wholly removed from the natural responsibilities of the public broadcasters". It cannot be too forcefully asserted that the exact opposite is the case.

The very principle of public service broadcasting, which is as fundamental to the Broadcasting Act governing independent television as it is to the BBC charter and which has guided British broadcasting policy from the beginning, is that so-called minorities are indeed cross-subsidized in terms both of transmission and production expenditure. If such standards of social service proper to public service broadcasting are, in the words of the ITCA, "remote from those of the rest of British broadcasting" this is a judgment upon the broadcasters and not the standards.

The ITCA's position confirms what many of us have long suspected, that they are unhappy in the role of public service broadcasters. Perhaps it would be a kindness therefore to allow them to quietly slip away so that they can devote themselves to those things for which they appear more fitted such as running motorway cafés and safari parks. Others more suitable and committed could then get on with providing British viewers with the public service to which they are entitled.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GARNHAM,
Head of Media Studies,
School of Communication,
The Polytechnic of Central London,
18-22 Riding House Street, W1.
March 18.

Civil Service loyalties

From Mr P. B. Edwards

Sir, The Civil Service unions have declared that the sole object of the strikes they have called in revenue collecting departments is to wreck the Government's cash flow. Would it not now be appropriate for the Treasury to issue instructions to all departments to pay no wages or salaries until such time as revenue collection is restored to normal?

Such action could not be interpreted as strike breaking, but merely as a self-inflicted wound.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. EDWARDS,
St Helens,
Lowfields,
Little Eversden,
Cambridge.
March 17.

Penny-wise cuts

From Mr Alan Hill

Sir, Your very interesting curriculum vitae ("Man in the news", March 18) of Nigeria's President Shagari contains a sentence of great significance: "Two years later he came to Britain on a British Council sponsorship."

This former overseas student now leads a country which is Britain's biggest trading partner outside the EEC and the United States. This not only vindicates the British Council but highlights the folly of the current drastic reduction in the numbers of overseas students coming to this country.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HILL,
Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) Ltd.
22 Bedford Square, WC1.
March 19.

Out of the mouths

From the Safety Officer of Oxford University

Sir, I have the duty to advise the University of Oxford in all matters pertaining to safety. In particular I have to give guidance on the interpretation of the maze of legislation to which the universities have lately become subject. The most recent addition to this collection is the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980, which deals with the disposal of noxious substances.

This confusing document contains a schedule of substances, including all laboratory chemicals, which are deemed to be potentially noxious. The test as to whether any sample actually is noxious is intriguing and I quote, "if a single dose of not more than five cubic centimetres would be likely to cause death or serious damage to tissue if ingested by a child of 20 kilograms body weight". If, on the other hand, it is not possible for a child to ingest five cubic centimetres, which in the case of a listed substance, such as asbestos, might well be so, then that sample does not come under the regulations.

The choice of children as an experimental species is unusual. It may, of course, be an attempt to reduce the number of experiments on animals in view of the recent activities of the anti-vivisection groups. However, the document does not reveal where one may obtain a supply of 20-kilogram children for these tests.

It is fair to say that our local authority have said that they are waiting for clarification of certain aspects of these regulations from the Department of the Environment.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT CECIL,
11 Keble Road,
Oxford.
March 17.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 19: The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria this morning visited the Reading Cattle Breeding Centre, Shinfield, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Colonel the Hon Gordon Palmer) and the Director of the Centre (Dr P. H. Lamont).

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria then drove to Oxford University and, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Bt), visited the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre, and afterwards was entertained at luncheon at Merton College by the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University (the Lord Blake).

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria this evening at Buckingham Palace received the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (the Right Hon Peter Walker, MP), the Secretary of State for Education and Science (the Right Hon Mark Carlisle, MP) and the Secretary of State for Energy (the Right Hon David Howell, MP).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Bank of England Printing Works at Loughton, Essex.

Having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis) and the Governor of the Bank of England (the Right Hon Gordon Richardson), Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were conducted on a tour of the printing works by the General Manager (Mr Michael Cubbage).

Afterwards The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, met representative groups of staff, honoured the Governor with her presence at luncheon, and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Bank Note Printing at the Bank of England Printing Works.

The Hon Mary Morrison, the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were entertained at a Banquet this evening by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at Claridge's.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Mr Richard Davies, this afternoon visited the Youth Opportunity Training Workshop, Burnt Mill Industrial Estate, Basildon, Essex, and the Aveley Youth Opportunity Programme Centre, Love Lane, Thurrock.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight and was received upon arrival by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (Mr A. J. V. Arthur).

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Abbeyfield Society, this morning opened the Abbeyfield House at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

Mr Francis Cornish was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 19: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were entertained at a Banquet this evening by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at Claridge's.

Mr and Mrs Archibald Chisholm regret they were unable to attend the memorial service for Mr Geoffrey Keating because of absence abroad.

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

Mr F. R. Ostick has been elected Master of the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders for the coming year. The wardens will be Mr J. J. Alder, Mr D. D. Merton, Mr H. E. P. Spearing and Mr G. E. S. Widdowson.

Birthdays today

The Rev William Baddeley, 67; Sir Arnold Burgen, 59; Sir Arthur Driver, 81; General Sir Charles Gairdner, 83; Dame Vera Lynn, 64; Professor Sir Ashley Miles, 77; Dr J. M. Rae, 50; Sir Michael Redgrave, 73; Lord Strathclyde, 90.

Privy Councillors

Mr David Spence Thomas, New Zealand Minister of State and leader of the House of Representatives, and the Hon Edward Jonathan Somers, a Judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal, are to be members of the Privy Council.

Museum buys Naples watercolour

By Frances Gibb

The British Museum paid £27,000 yesterday for a watercolour by John Robert Cozens, "The Castle of Sant'Elmo, Naples". It was one of the top prices in Sotheby's sale of British watercolours and drawings from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The work, bid for on behalf of the museum by Leger Galleries, the London dealers, dates from the time when Cozens was in Naples with his patron, William Beckford, in July, 1782. It was expected to fetch between £5,000 and £8,000.

The artist came back to England late in 1783 and spent his time working up his Italian sketches into full watercolours. This one is dated 1790 and is based on a drawing in the fourth of the Beckford sketchbooks, sold at Sotheby's in 1973. It is thought to be the only example of that composition.

The top price in the sale, which totalled £318,510, with 8 per cent unsold, was £34,000 (estimate £25,000-£35,000) paid by Thomas Gibson Fine Art for a small watercolour by J. M. W. Turner, "The Cedars of Lebanon".

It measures 5in by 8in and is connected with Turner's designs for Finden's "Landscape Illustrations of the Bible", executed between 1832 and 1835 and published by John Murray.

This watercolour was not used in the final set and together with another, "Sidon", auctioned at Sotheby's last year for £31,000, went into the collection of James Wadmore, which was sold at Christie's in 1863.

Two other good prices were £16,000 paid by Agnew's for a Thomas Girtin, "The Harbour at Weymouth, Dorset", which was recently discovered in an attic in Yorkshire; and £15,000 paid by Spink for an album of 36 drawings and watercolours of Calcutta by William Prinsep.

Public galleries made two other purchases. The Tyne and Wear Museum paid £3,200 for a watercolour by Thomas Miles Richardson entitled "Near Murton Colliery, Seaham, co Durham", and Leggatt Brothers, on behalf of the National Portrait Gallery, paid £480 for a portrait of Mrs Lucy de Loutherbourg by Francis Xavier Vispre.

At Christie's particular interest was shown in nineteenth-century German drawings. A watercolour of a stag hunt by Wilhelm von Kobell, signed and dated 1839, measuring 190mm by 249mm, made £9,500, paid by David Carritt, the London dealer. The work was estimated to make between £4,000 and £6,000.

Another good price in the sale, which totalled £78,720, with 15 per cent unsold, was £3,600 paid by Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox for a watercolour by Paul Graeb, "The White Drawing Room at Charlottenburg", dating from about 1860.

Martinware was setting new price levels at Sotheby's, Belgravia. A pair of Martin Brothers jardinieres dated 1887, each modelled in low relief with ferocious winged beasts and scaly monsters, made £2,500 (estimate £400 to £600).

Also in the sale was a rare Martin Brothers "grotesque" jar and cover, conceived as an imaginary beast on all fours, dated 1884, which made £1,250 (estimate £700 to £1,000).

In a sale of children's books at Sotheby's, Chancery Lane, two classics, copies of The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and her Dog, by Sarah Catherine Martin, went for £260 and £160. The first was a second edition printed in 1806 and the second was printed in 1825.

Photograph by Harry Kerr

Mr Joe Cooper, aged 82, with a bell made in 1435 which he will ring when the Queen visits Leeds Castle, Kent, on Wednesday, to inaugurate a scheme for handicapped people to see the castle.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant J. Blackett, RN and Miss S. A. Fulford, WRNS
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, second son of Mr and Mrs W. Blackett, of Purbrook, Hampshire, and Sally, elder daughter of Surgeon Captain and Mrs Philip Fulford, of Alverstoke, Hampshire.

Mr W. Kingscote and Miss J. K. Laidlaw
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Kingscote, of Daresbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, and Julia Kristin, second daughter of Mr and Mrs T. K. Laidlaw, of Somerton, Castleknock, co Dublin.

Mr A. J. Roberts and Miss C. B. Smith
The engagement is announced between Andrew John, only son of Mr and Mrs E. John Roberts, of Stoneygate, Leicester, and Caroline Barbara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. David Smith, of Oadby, Leicestershire.

Mr M. D. Teden and Miss S. N. Shull
The engagement is announced between Michael David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frank Teden, of Cuthberts, Rotherfield, East Sussex, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Shull, of Columbia, South Carolina, United States.

Mr H. Woodsend and Miss A. Lord
The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Dr and Mrs Gervase Woodsend, of Staithe Barn, Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk, and Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Lord, of Coolbeg, Glanmire, co Cork, Republic of Ireland.

Marriages

Mr E. W. Davis and Miss P. J. Rangecroft
The marriage has taken place very quietly between Mr Teddy Davis and Miss Penny Rangecroft.

Dr A. Maryon-Davis and Miss A. Davies
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 14, in Hertfordshire, between Dr Alan Maryon-Davis, son of Mr and Mrs C. E. Maryon-Davis, of Osterley, Middlesex, and Miss Anne Davies, daughter of the late Dr Phillip Davies and of Mrs Davies, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Dr R. O. Murray and Mrs J. Mathewson
The marriage took place quietly on Wednesday, March 18, at Holy Trinity Church, Crookham, Hampshire, between Dr Ronald Ormiston Murray and Mrs Jane Mathewson.

Luncheons

HM Government
Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon held at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the European Communities Commissioner for Development, M Claude Cheysson.

HM Government
Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Cesar Cals de Oliveira Filho, Minister for Mines and Energy, Brazil.

Institution of Production Engineers
The President of the Institution of Production Engineers, Dr Howard Hicks, gave a luncheon at the Rembrandt Hotel yesterday in honour of Professor Brian P. Smith's presentation of the Dr Herbert Schofield Memorial Paper for Young People.

Dinners

President of Nigeria
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were the guests of honour at a dinner given by the President of Nigeria at Claridge's hotel yesterday. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were also present. Other guests included:

The Lord Chancellor, the Prime Minister and Mr D. Thatcher, the Speaker, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Lady Carrington, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, the Chairman of the GLC and Mrs Brook-Partridge, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Chief Akinloye, the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth and Mrs E. C. Anyaoku; Sir David and Lady Barran, Alhaji Dagazau, Major-General Lord and Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard, Mr Michael Foot, MP, and Mrs Foot, the Duchess of Grafton, Lord and Lady Hunt of Tanworth, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim, Alhaji Shehu Malami, Sir Philip Moore, Mr and Mrs W. F. Nicholas and Sir Michael and Lady Palliser.

Pattenmakers' Company
The following were elected officers of the Pattenmakers' Company yesterday for the ensuing year: Master: Mr E. Rayne. Upper Warden: Mr E. Astaire. Renter Warden: Mr A. Eskenzi.

At a court dinner held afterwards at Tallow Chandlers' Hall the Hon David Montagu replied to the toast to the guests, who included Mr A. C. M. Harding, Mr S. Zilkah and Mr M. Latham, MP.

Society of Industrial Artists and Designers
The annual Minerva dinner of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers was held last night at Apothecaries' Hall. The principal speakers were Sir William Barlow and Miss Ann Burdus. The guests were received by Mr Milner Gray, president of honour, and Mr George Freeman, president of the society, and Mrs Freeman.

Coningsby Club
The Coningsby Club yesterday entertained Sir Ian Gilmour, MP, at dinner at the St Stephen's Club. Mr Jim Powell was in the chair.

Merchiston Castle School
The London branch of the Merchistonian Club held their annual dinner last night at the Caledonian Club. Mr Tom Carmichael was in the chair and the principal guest was the outgoing Headmaster of Merchiston Castle School, Mr Donald Forbes.

Memorial Mass

Mr G. Keating
A memorial Mass for Mr Geoffrey Keating was concelebrated yesterday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, by Father Peter Knott and Father Kenneth Nugent. The Hon John Donovan read the lesson, Sir Alan Rothnie gave an address and Mr Matthew Keating (brother) read the prayers of intercession. Among those present were:

Mrs Keating (widow), Mrs Matthew Keating and Mrs B. Peppiatt (sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Michael Keating-Hill, Miss Bridget Keating-Hill, Mrs P. Power, Mr Dominic Power.

Margaret Duchess of Argyll, the Marquess of Londonderry, Viscountess Montgomery of Alamein, Lady Reay, Lady Melchett, Lord Vaizey (British-Irish Association), Lord and Lady Ashcombe, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, Lady Katharine Asquith, the Hon Mrs John Donovan, the Hon Alan Clark, the Hon Simon Orr-Ewing, the Hon Colin Orr-Ewing, the Hon James Tennant, the Hon David St Clair-Erskine, the Hon Mrs Morgan, the Hon Isabel Catto, the Hon Anthony Berry, MP, Sir William and Lady Becher, Sir Denis Hamilton, Sir John and Lady Rennie, Lady Rothnie, Lady Keswick, Lady Alston-Roberts-West, Lady Bowker, Sir James Murray, Sir John Russell, Sir John Hogg, Lady (Eric) Drake, Lady (Nigel) Fisher, Sir Charles Johnston, Mr Harold and Lady Frances Denman, Mr John and Lady Sarah Aspinall, Mr Alan Whicker, Mrs Edward Ardizzone, Mrs A. Ardizzone, Mrs Patrick Telfer Smollett of Bonhill, Mr Alan Moorehead, Miss C. Moorehead, Mr and Mrs J. Moorehead, Miss B. Moorehead, Mrs David Karmel, Mrs Christopher Laidlaw, Major H. A. D. Buchanan, Mr Mark Birley, Mr R. M. Birley, Mrs M. L. Harrison, Mrs G. Fame, Mr A. Cluff, Mr and Mrs W. Goetz, Mr George Seymour, Lieutenant-Colonel Neil McLean, Mr Christopher Moorsom, Mr Dennis Walters, MP, Mr Angus Macqueen, Mrs Gaby Schreiber, Mr Derek Whiting, Mr G. Sean Bradshaw-Mack, Prince Yuri Galitzine, Mr Oliver Miles, Mr Richard Wace, Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, Mr and Mrs Roderick Chisholm, Mr Donald Box, Mr Vane Ivanovich, Mr M. Graham, Mr and Mrs Ronald Tritton, Mme Gertrude Wissa, Mrs R. Williams-Bulkeley, Mrs I. M. Zulficar, Miss Jackie Leishman, Miss Alison Birkmyre, Mr R. Donovan, Miss Bridget Heathcoat-Amory, Mrs David Heathcoat-Amory, Mr Stephen Somerville, Miss Delia Rothnie, Mr John Jones, Senator R. Conroy, Dr Desmond Conroy, Mr Peter Darnell (Stoy Hayward), Mr Christopher Gibbs, Mr Parviz Radji, Mr and Mrs Derek Brierley and Mr Max Harari.

Today's engagements

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, attends TA all ranks reception, Skinners' Hall, 7.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, visits factories of Dent and Hellyer, 11, and Link Electronics, Andover, Hampshire, 2; as president, attends evening discourse, Royal Institution, 7.15.

The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Catering Corps, attends past and present officers' dinner, Quaglino's Hotel, 7.40.

Chairman of the GLC is host at a luncheon for the Minister of Local Government of Syria and the Governors of Damascus City, Ragga and Suweida, County Hall, 1.

Talks: "London river: The Twickenham ferries", by Donal Simpson, Museum of London, 1.10. "Life in the coal swamps", by A. C. Milner, Geological Museum, 6.30. Sargent's portraits, by Monica Seymour, Tate Gallery, 1.

"Poetry of the Night", readings from Shelley, Masefield, Hardy, Yeats, Longfellow and Graves, London Planetarium, 6.

Spring equinox: Druidic ceremony, Tower Hill Terrace, Tower Hill, 1.

Exhibitions: Camping and outdoor leisure exhibition (Colex), Battersea Park, 10 to 8. A. W. Callcott, RA, Tate Gallery, Millbank, 10 to 6. Christopher Kent, Mick Kelly, Woodlands Art Gallery, 90 Mycenae Road, 10 to 7.30. Tributes to Anna Pavlova, Museum of London, London Wall, 10 to 6.

Lunchtime music: Chamber ensemble concert, directed by Yona Ettlinger, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, 1.10. Simon Lole, organ, St Paul's Cathedral, 12.30.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Sir Harry Hookway and Professor Kerry Downes to be members of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), in succession to Professor John St Joseph and Dr Mark Girouard.

Rear-Admiral J. E. C. Kennon to be promoted vice-admiral on April 7 and to be Chief of Fleet Support in October in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir William Pillar.

Captain (Commodore) J. C. Warsop to be promoted rear-admiral on July 7 and to be Port Admiral, Rosyth, in August in succession to Vice-Admiral Kennon.

Mr Sidney Roy Fisher, Colonel Donald Edwin Gibbs and Major Philip Johnson to be High Sheriffs for the Counties of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside respectively.

Mr Matthew Cochran to be Scottish Director of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service in succession to Mr Thomas Smith.

Mr Francis Grier, aged 25, to be organist for Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, in succession to Mr Simon Preston, who is to be organist at Westminster Abbey.

University news

Oxford
Elections
QUEEN'S COLLEGE Official fellowship and praelectorship in modern history, W. J. Blair, BA.
BRASENOSE COLLEGE Clifford Norton junior research fellowship in economics, S. N. Broadberry, BA (Warwick), MPhil (Nuffield College).

Cambridge
Elections
B. E. Supple, PhD (Christ's), BSc Econ (London), MA (Oxford), reader in recent social and economic history, Oxford University, to the Professorship of economic history.
CLARE COLLEGE Fellowships: P. A. Cartledge, DPhil (Oxford), university lecturer in the faculty of classics, R. W. Scribner, MA (Sydney), PhD (London), university lecturer in the faculty of history. At. R. Weale, MA, junior research officer department of applied economics, research fellowships S. B. Dunnett, MA of Churchill College and R. A. Houston, MA, of Peterhouse.
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE "A" fellowship: M. E. Owen, BA, of Magdalen College, Oxford. Schoolmaster fellow commonerships: Michaelmas term, 1981: J. F. Glass, MA headmaster, Bedlington HS, Cumberland. Lent term 1982: R. C. Small, MA, Dr Challoner's GS, Amersham.
DARWIN COLLEGE Mr H. C. Price has been appointed bursar and elected to an official fellowship.
MAGDALENE COLLEGE Fellowship class A for three years from October 1: J. R. Cave, PhD, of Clare Hall; official fellowship in class B from February 12: H. A. Klein, MA, MB, B Chir, PhD of Magdalene College; Schoolmaster fellow commonership for Lent Term, 1981: E. Williams of Orange Hill Senior HS Edgware. Schoolmaster fellow commonership for Easter term, 1981: A. J. Cooke, of Leeds GS.
PEMBROKE COLLEGE Honorary fellowship from October 1: H. H. Erskine-Hill, MA, of Jesus College, university lecturer in English; Drapers' Company research fellowship in mathematics from November 18: J. R. Partington, MA, PhD of Trinity College; Official fellowship on appointment to college lectureship in classics from October 1: R. L. Hunter. Drapers' Company research fellow of the college, Drapers' Company research fellowship in English from October 1: D. J. Womersley, BA, of Trinity College.

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, March 19, 1956

Mme Joliot-Curie

Our Paris Correspondent reports that Mme Joliot-Curie died in the small hours of Saturday morning in hospital in Paris at the age of 60. The doctors in attendance announced that her death was the result of leukemia resulting from the work on radiation to which she had devoted her life. The daughter of the late Pierre and Marie Curie, the joint discoverers of radium, she was born in 1896 and proved to be a remarkable example of inherited genius. In 1918 she began to act as her mother's assistant at the Institut du Radium. It was a hard school in which to learn. Completed only in 1914, the institute had lost its staff by dispersion, and most of the value of its endowments during the war years. To this difficult period and especially to her mother Irene owed a thorough knowledge of the chemistry of the natural radio elements and of methods of separation and analysis applicable to small quantities of materials. . . . On January 15, 1934, they [she and her husband Frédéric Joliot] reported to the French Academy of Sciences the discovery which only a year later brought them a Nobel prize. This was the discovery of artificial radioactivity, or of induced radioactivity as at that time they preferred to call it.

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators

Captain Charles G. Klimcke was installed as Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators for 1981-82 yesterday. The Master elect is Mr Norman A. Royce and the Wardens for the ensuing year are Captain Kenneth Blevins, Mr David Proudlove and Mr Thomas Brooke-Smith.

Latest wills

Miss Flora Marion Woodman, of Nottinghill, London, left estate valued at £242,406 net. After personal bequests she left the residue equally between the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Musicians Benevolent Fund and the RSPCA.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Birt, Mrs Evelyn Mary, of Gillingham, Dorset £241,043
Brookes, Mr Desmond Cannon, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex .. £243,166
Clark, Judge Reginald, QC, of Richmond on Thames .. £146,206
Haim, Mr Joseph, of Westminster, antique dealer .. £225,599
Ide, Mrs Nancy Nora, of Loughton, Essex £205,961
Morrall, Mr Charles Edmund, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, intestate £201,602
Parker, Mrs Margaret Noel, of Chelsea £413,313
Parsons, Mr Herbert Martin, of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire £322,082
Percy, Mrs Norah, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear £191,479
Salmon, Sir Samuel Isidore, of Westminster, former president and chairman of J. Lyons .. £133,413
Sotheby, Mr Nigel Walter Adeane, of Llanymynech, Shropshire £242,244
Tomkins, Mr Gordon Percival, of Lewes £165,214
Venthan, Rose Marian, of Bognor Regis £231,764

OBITUARY

MR NICHOLAS STUART GRAY

Actor and author of plays for children

Mr Nicholas Stuart Gray, the dramatist and actor, died in London on March 17. He was 61.

He spent much of his life in the theatre writing for children. Here he had a particular talent for dialogue gently atmospheric enough for the sensitive child, and inventive enough for tougher types. He began with work a little too spare, but this grew more exuberant and fantastic as he went on. The poet who said "Make me a child again, just for tonight," would have found in Nicholas Stuart Gray the ideal dramatist. An actor as well, he often appeared in his own work. Latterly, he wrote a number of effective children's stories.

Born in Scotland, in October, 1919, he acted and directed at various repertory theatres and was first seen on television in 1947. His earliest plays (1948), were The Tinder-Box and an adult piece, The Haunted, produced in London at the Torch Theatre. Gray himself was an earthbound ghost, not especially blithe spirit, who has been flitting about a cottage on the Brighton Road since 1820 and getting peevish and lonely.

His most steadily popular children's play, Beauty and the Beast arrived in the next year (Mercury). A quiet, poetic miniature, it managed to spin between 1340 and 1840, had both a lizard and a wizard, and was written with the right kind of straight face about a world in which if anyone said "I must fly", he did so immediately.

The Princess and the Swineherd followed in 1952 (Gray acted Prince Etienne at the Mercury); two years later he wrote The Hunters and the Henwife and also The Marvellous Story of Puss in Boots. At the Fortune (1955) he created his own Puss, a cat with dignity, agility, a fine orange-tawny tail, and a piece of unanswerable logic: "human beings are masters of the world because they can open and shut gates".

Nicholas Stuart Gray continued to take a familiar story and to rethink it in terms of the children's theatre. Thus, in New Clothes for the Emperor (which began its life under a slightly different title), he turned 1,500 words of Hans Andersen into an entirely fresh narrative, an intricate mesh of plot, adding a mildly incompetent Slave of the Ring called Belvedere, charmingly fussy and apologetic. The Imperial Nightingale (Birmingham Repertory, 1957) was also loosely based on Andersen, set in a mooncast world—with a determined nightingale—that simply for the sake of a name must be called China.

There were five or six other plays, including The Wrong Side of the Moon (Gateway, Edinburgh, 1966) in which the author was Tomlyn, the cat, who is involved with an ancient raven in the Rapunzel story: they are slaves of a witch for whom Rapunzel lets down her hair so that the tyrant can climb to a turret above the clouds. Gray repeated his performance at the Jeanetta Cochrane in London (1968). In New Lamps for Old (Arnaud, Guildford), 1970, he played Jinnee of the Lamp, and also directed.

ELIZABETH SALTER

Michael Stapleton writes:

A wide circle of friends in many countries were saddened by the death of Elizabeth Salter on March 14. A major operation in November, 1980, had deprived her of the resources to win the struggle back to physical health. Her lively mind remained unimpaired, however, and almost to the end a conversation with Elizabeth was the stimulating and amusing experience her friends knew so well.

Elizabeth Salter was born in Angaston in South Australia, and after attending The Wilderness, a college for girls, she went on to the University of Adelaide. She also spent a year at the music Conservatorium of that city.

In 1953 she came to London, determined to make a career as a writer, and published her first mystery story, Death in a Mist, in 1957. She published four more: Will to Survive, There was a Witness, The Voice of the Peacock and Once Upon a Tombstone—but in 1957 her fellow-Australian, the pianist Gordon Watson, introduced her to Dame Edith Sitwell and she became her secretary. She also became her friend, and she stayed with Dame Edith until her death in 1964.

In 1967 Elizabeth Salter published a notable memoir of her friend, The Last Years of a Rebel, and then her writing took a new direction. She became a biographer, specializing in Australian subjects: Daisy Bates, The Lost Impressionist (John Peter Russell) and Helpmann—the subject of which also came from South Australia. Fire of the Mind, upon which she collaborated with Allanah Harper, is an anthology of Edith Sitwell's poetry and prose. Her pictorial biography, Edith Sitwell, was published in 1979.

She lived at Fitzjohn's Avenue in Hampstead—the part of London she preferred to any other.

ARNOLD WEISSBERGER

Sir John Gielgud writes:

The sudden death of Arnold Weissberger will have greatly saddened his huge circle of friends, especially the artists whom he entertained so generously both in New York and on his annual visits to London.

When I first went to act in America in 1936, he was one of the first to make me welcome and introduce me to all his friends, and ever since that time his generosity and enthusiasm have been as unfailing as his good counsel as a brilliant lawyer.

A tall and elegant figure, wearing a bowler hat and white carnation, he would walk from Sutton Place to his office where he would always be at his desk by nine o'clock. At lunch time he would give lavish parties in a restaurant and in the evening would take friends to a theatre, often after playing host at a cocktail party at his flat, though he neither drank nor smoked himself.

He would travel extensively in Europe during the summer and once turned up in my dressing room in Warsaw when I was giving a recital there. He was an indefatigable and brilliant amateur photographer too. At his parties you might be lucky enough to meet, on the same evening, Stravinsky, Virgil Thomson, Carol Channing, Lauren Bacall and Dame Rebecca West, yet he was thoughtful in inviting less famous old friends as well, some of them less successful than they once were, besides many younger artists whose potential he was quick to recognize.

For me New York will not be the same without him and I owe him grateful thanks for so many delightful times in his company.

MR A. F. MARTIN

Mr A. F. Martin, who died on March 2, was one of the first Fellows in Geography in Oxford, and a lecturer in the School of Geography since 1949.

He went up to Oriel College in 1932 and read the Honour Schools of PPE and Geography, obtaining first classes in both. He also rowed in the Oriel boat which was head of the river in 1935. He brought to geography a sense of inquiry derived from his economics and philosophy training, and his knowledge of the subject was immense.

He was in many ways an old-fashioned Oxford tutor, a man of style and of great erudition, but who published relatively little; his few contributions, however, particularly those to the Naval Intelligence handbooks produced during the war, show his ability as a scholar. He was a patient teacher, but a somewhat hesitant lecturer.

He was happy in his college, St John's, and served it in many capacities, and his advice was always much valued; at different times he was dean, domestic bursar, bursar and vice-president. In the School of Geography he was librarian for many years.

He was at his best in committee where his shrewdness and fairness were most evident; he had been chairman of the Faculty Board, served on the General Board, and at the time of his death was chairman of the Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations. He came from a family with strong Oxford connexions, and completely identified himself with both Town and Gown and had been especially involved with St Giles's Church.

He married Christine Gibb in 1944, who survives him with their six children. He had only recently retired from his Fellowship and Lecturership.

TELESFORO MONZON

Señor Telesforo Monzon, an outspoken sympathizer with Basque extremists and leader of the Erri Batasuna (People's Unity) electoral coalition, died on March 9, at the age of 7[illegible], in the French Basque city of Bayonne.

Monzon, who boycotted his seat in the Parliament of the autonomous Basque region of Spain since his election one year ago, just as he had previously boycotted his seat in the Spanish Parliament following his election in 1979, made no secret of his opinion that the Basque provinces of Spain and the Basque departments of France should be united in a completely independent state.

During the Spanish civil war as a leading member of the Basque nationalist party, he became Minister of the Interior of the Basque government at the age of 31. Subsequently he continued for some years as a member of the Basque government in exile.

His uncompromising secessionist position led his fellow members in the Congress of Deputies in Madrid to vote overwhelmingly in November, 197[illegible] to strip him of parliamentary immunity, so that he could be prosecuted for "resisting the authorities" and engaging in "apology for terrorism". However, he was never brought to trial.

Monzon, who lived in southwestern France in recent years and seldom went to Spain, acted as an intermediary in 1970 in negotiations for the release of a West German consul kidnapped by the Basque extremists.

SIR ANTHONY ESMONDE

C. E. L. writes:

Sir Anthony Esmonde, the fifteenth baronet, of Ballynastragh, County Wexford, who has died at the age of 82, sat in Dail Eireann (the Irish Parliament) from 1951 until 1973. For nearly 20 years he was a member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and he was at one time chairman of the important Committee on Agriculture.

The Esmondes belonged to the small coterie of Catholic noble families who survived the Penal Laws and Protestant Ascendancy of the eighteenth century. Sir Anthony's great-grandfather was hanged for his involvement in the rebellion of 1798; his father and elder brother were Irish Nationalist MPs in the House of Commons. But although nationalists they retained a residual loyalty to the British connexion. Sir Anthony was proud to be the brother and grand-nephew of winners of the Victoria Cross. He himself served as a medical officer in the Royal Navy for five years after he qualified as a doctor in 1921.

In early life he may have been overshadowed by his more spectacular elder brother John Lymbrick Esmonde who was the youngest ever elected member of the House of Commons and later played an active part in Irish politics and at the Bar. Sir Anthony worked as a doctor and farmer, first in Tipperary and then in Wexford. In 1951 he succeeded as Fine Gael member of the Dail for what was virtually a family seat in Wexford.

All but three of his 22 years in Parliament were spent in opposition and he never held office. It is probably true to say that he was not fully appreciated by the leadership of his own party who tended to be shamefaced about the tradition of Empire nationalism he represented. He in turn had little regard for most of his own front bench and was not afraid to take an independent stance.

His integrity was beyond question and he was dutiful and dogged in looking after his constituents, for he was a man of exceptional kindness and good nature. He brought lustre to the Irish delegation in the Council of Europe. He was popular there as in the Dail for he was a delightful relaxed companion, a good linguist and possessed of a wry and mocking humour which was coupled with an amiable self-confidence. He left active politics in 1973 and returned to medical practice in his home district.

Science report

Energy: First steps in nuclear fusion

By the Staff of Nature

Sixty watts of nuclear fusion reactions, the reactions that make the Sun shine and which one day may provide unlimited energy from the sea, have been created in an experiment at Princeton University, United States. Sixty watts, if it is all converted to electricity, is only enough to light a light bulb; but the excitement is over how the reactions were generated.

The principle applied by the Princeton physicists was radiofrequency heating. A microwave oven uses the same idea. Instead of heating food, the Princeton experiment heated plasma, a gas so hot that its atoms have been torn apart by collisions into their component electrons and nuclei.

The plasma, as in many similar systems, was confined by a toroidal (doughnut-shaped) magnetic field, and 500 kilowatts of radiowaves were beamed at it. The frequency of the radiowaves was matched to the rate at which certain nuclei in the plasma (nuclei of helium-3) circled in the magnetic field. The nuclei were accelerated by the radiowaves and reached peak energies equivalent to a temperature of around 800 million degrees centigrade, nearly 100 times the temperature of the rest.

The accelerated helium nuclei collided with other nuclei in the plasma; in particular deuterium (heavy hydrogen). Deuterium and helium-3 nuclei fuse to make a highly stable helium-4 nucleus and expel an energetic proton. This proton is too fast to be retained by the confining magnetic fields, and shoots out of the plasma to be detected by equipment outside the ring.

The Princeton team detected sufficient protons to calculate that 20 million million such reactions were taking place in the plasma each second, enough to yield 60 watts if the energy released was all converted to electricity.

The significance of the experiment is not so much in producing 60 watts as in showing that radiofrequency heating is feasible. In any conceivable fusion reactor in which the plasma is confined by magnetic fields, extra heating will have to be provided to bring the plasma up to "ignition", just as a match is needed to light a fire. Once the plasma is ignited, the power of the fusion reactions should keep the temperature up.

The most highly developed "match", neutral beam heating, involves shooting neutral atoms into the plasma, raising the plasma energy thermally. But five times as much energy is needed to produce the beam as actually reaches the plasma, making the system energy inefficient, a big drawback for a device that is ultimately supposed to generate energy. Radiofrequency heating is much more energy efficient, its champions claim. Moreover, radiowaves can be delivered to the plasma through smaller tubes than those needed for neutral beams, thus limiting the space through which dangerous nuclear reaction products might escape from the chamber.

Until the Princeton experiment no one had succeeded in delivering a large quantity of radiofrequency power to the plasma without pushing it out of its magnetic trap. The Princeton experiment used 500 kilowatts of radio power, but left the plasma intact, putting radiofrequency heating in much the same class as neutral beams. There is a long way to go yet, however, before such reactors can be producing net power gains from their ubiquitous fuels (which can be derived from water and common rocks). Fusion is no solution to the energy crisis yet, but it is now one short step closer.

Source: Physical Review Letters (Vol 46, p 355) 1981.

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A breathing-space for ICL, page 19

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Europe grows nervous on interest rates, Page 19

Stock markets
FT Index 496.7, up 5.6
FT Gilts 70.32, up 0.34

Sterling
$2.2815, up 20 cents
Index 100.2, unchanged

Dollar
Index 98.3, down 0.2
DM 2.0492, down 70 pts

Gold
$508.50, down $1

Money
3 mth sterling 12⅞-12⅞
3 mth Euro $ 13⅞-13⅞
6 mth Euro $ 13⅞-14⅛

IN BRIEF

Record month for unit trust sales

Unit trust sales in February were a record £84.6m and repurchases were slightly up at £29.8m, the industry's net sales of £54.7m were also a new high.

The value of funds under management was also a record touching £5,228m at the end of the month. There are now 467 authorized unit trusts, including 10 new trusts launched last month.

£37m contract

Mobil North Sea has awarded a £37m contract to Redpath De Groot Caledonian and UIE UK for the fabrication of a steel jacket for the Beryl "B" drilling and production platform.

Cocoa firm

Cocoa prices traded strongly in London on hopes that a meeting of producers in Cameroun would end with a decision to sign the International Cocoa Agreement. March cocoa closed £10 a tonne up at £957.50.

Distilleries lay-offs

Distillers will close 45 malt distilleries in Scotland for about two months this summer, laying off 1,100 workers, because of falling whisky demand.

Gold futures talks

Members of the London Metal Exchange will meet on Monday to discuss again the controversial decision to denominate the proposed gold futures contract in sterling instead of dollars.

200 new jobs

About 200 new jobs are expected to be created by 64 small businesses taking up workshop space in the former Limestone paint factory, Wandsworth, in south-west London, which will be opened next week.

£9m steel grants

More than £9m is being made available by the European Coal and Steel Community in readaptation grants to workers who have been made redundant by the British Steel Corporation under its retrenchment programme.

Lloyd's Bill debate

A Commons debate on the draft Bill to improve self-regulation in the Lloyd's insurance market is scheduled to take place next Tuesday.

Ivory Coast contracts

Plessey Electronic Systems is to be the main contractor for the rebuilding of Abidjan airport which will cost £150m and has won a £10m contract to supply equipment for Bouake airport in the Ivory Coast. George Wimpey has won contracts to build a road and hospital together worth £45m.

Dunlop venture

Dunlop International, the overseas operating company of Dunlop Holdings, has signed a joint venture agreement with the National Development Company (NDC) of the Philippines to develop an oil palm estate.

Wall St lower

The Dow Jones industrials average closed 7.48 point down at 986.58. The $-SDR was 1.24272. The £ was 0.546371.

Further delay in sale of BNOC shares to public

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Plans to allow the public to buy shares in the state-owned British National Oil Corporation have run into trouble again. The Bill giving the Government powers to bring private capital into the corporation, published just over a month ago, now looks extremely unlikely to find parliamentary time this session.

The ostensible reason is the amount of time which seems certain to be taken up by a Bill to resolve Canada's desire to gain control of its own constitution.

But it is clear that if there were the political will, time could be found to introduce the BNOC legislation.

As it is government ministers, except for Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, are lukewarm at best over bringing private capital into BNOC.

Neither the Treasury nor the Foreign Office has ever been keen on the idea and the Opposition has been implacably opposed to a sale which it has seen as an attempt to give assets which should be enjoyed by the public to the City institutions.

Labour politicians would have fought the clause permitting the share sale as hard as they could, using up the maximum parliamentary time. A more limited Bill to effect the changes to the operation of BNOC that the Conservative administration has already put into effect would have had a much easier passage.


Mr David Howell: pressed hard for shares sale.

A Bill must be put through at some stage to enshrine the removal of the privileges and special duties that BNOC enjoyed under the original legislation, which the last Labour Government successfully introduced, but there is no urgency.

Some Conservative backbenchers however may be angry at further delays to introduce private capital into the BNOC and if the Bill is reintroduced they may try to insist on much more detailed arrangements for making a sale than those included in the Bill published a month ago.

The further delay is a blow to Mr Howell, who has pressed hard for a share sale to be made. Initial enthusiasm by the Prime Minister seems to have waned as other nationized industries have been able to institute schemes more easily.

Non oil and gas interests to be hived off into separate company

Tricentrol planning demerger move

By Catherine Gunn

Tricentrol yesterday disclosed it was to undertake the first big demerger since the tax rules were changed in the 1980 Finance Act.

It plans to put its non-oil and gas operations later this year into a separate company which will concentrate mainly on developing its small high technology data storage interest. All Tricentrol shareholders will be given shares in the new company.

Last month J. F. Nash Securities took advantage of the new demerger rules to split off Reliant Motor, which was expected to make a loss this year, before it damaged its parent company.

Tricentrol's demerger is apparently intended to allow both parts of the present group to grow unimpeded by each others' special needs.

Mr James Longcroft, the chairman of Tricentrol, will also head the new commercial company, which is to be run by Mr Peter Moody.

Mr Longcroft said yesterday that the timing of the demerger will depend in part on signs of an upswing in the economy.

The group publishes eight month interim figures in September, by which time it will be in a position to make a profit forecast for 1981, and the demerger document could be published then. Tricentrol is anxious to protect the commercial company from predators.

The commercial side, whose most important business is the Ford dealerships, saw profits fall from £2.48m to £333,000 in 1980, while oil and gas profits jumped from £17.8m to £37.5m giving a group profit before various taxes of £39m, against £21m in 1979.

Automotive profits slipped from £2.74m to £301,000 in the year to December 31 thanks to the recession's impact on the motor industry and higher interest charges. The commercial division's losses in Europe eased from £954,000 to £426,000.

Most of the profits in 1980 came from its United Kingdom energy operations, which produced £34.1m profit against £14m a year earlier, after increased production from the Thistle field.

It is now starting a five-year exploration drive in the United States and last year American interests produced £2.32m, against £2.79m, but Canada provided £1.16m, up from £1.1m.

United Kingdom oil and gas reserves have been written down from £193.4m in 1979 to £125.1m at the end of 1980, to reflect the estimated impact of the new special petroleum duty and changes in petroleum revenue tax: while United States and Canadian reserves rose from £87m to £98.5m.

The after-tax profit of £15.8m for the group was in line with market expectations. Dividend has gone up 20 per cent to 12p gross. The shares closed at 308p, up 20p on the day.

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Prudential wins approval from Bache for $385m takeover

From Margaret Coffey
New York, March 19

Prudential Insurance of America, the largest insurance company in the United States has reached agreement to buy the Bache Group for $385m (£169m). Bache is the parent company of Bache Halsey Stuard Shields, one of the largest brokerage houses in the country.

It is believed that Bache welcomed the offer because it was fighting an unwanted takeover bid by the Belzberg brothers of Vancouver, British Columbia. The brothers have holdings in a number of real estate and banking companies, and since 1979, have bought 22.6 per cent of Bache's stock, most of it in the past year.

Bache was at one time closely involved with Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and his brother Mr W. Herbert Hunt, the silver millionaires, who owned 6.6 per cent of Bache and had bought shares to help protect the company against a takeover.

But when the price of silver tumbled Bache was forced to sell stocks to finance Hunt's margin business, which seriously weakened the company. Bache had to raise a considerable credit line from a group of American banks.

Industry analysts point out that, Bache will provide Prudential with a new source of financial services for millions of customers that already buy car and life insurance from the company if the deal proceeds.

Bache has expanded the investment services that it offers to include bank-like interest bearing accounts.

As a result, some Wall Street executives are already predicting that the proposed acquisition could have far-reaching effects. "This will speed competition between banks and insurance companies to serve customers with everything you can think of," said one.

Other insurance companies could be tempted to follow Prudential's lead and acquire brokerage houses, and this would create even more competition for banks, sources said. At the moment banks are prohibited from buying brokerage houses, although they are pressing for that right.

The price of Bache stock on the New York Stock Exchange rose nearly $3 yesterday, closing at a record 23½. Prudential is not publicly traded.

Heineken takes stake in Tomatin

By Peter Wainwright

Heineken NV, already linked to Whitbread and Holland's largest brewer, yesterday agreed to inject £1.5m into Tomatin Distillers. Tomatin owns the biggest malt distillery in the Highlands, and supplies 5 per cent of the Scottish malt whisky industry's yearly output with a production of around five million proof gallons a year.

Heineken is putting up the money in exchange for 1.35 million shares in Tomatin at a subscription price of 115p a share. This would give Heineken one-fifth of Tomatin's issued capital.

The deal depends on approval from Tomatin's shareholders, and on non-referral of the plan to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Tomatin is reasonably confident of the blessing of the Office of Fair Trading.

Heineken first approached Tomatin with plans for a new brand of Scotch whisky a year ago and it suggested a share stake in Tomatin to guard the new trading link. Tomatin was not averse to a cash injection, or to keeping its independence though it denies a takeover approach. Tomatin is, moreover, a supplier of whisky fillings which it sells to blenders.

Tomatin also unveiled a cut in dividend from 4.75p to 0.1p an amount paid purely to preserve the shares' trustee status. The shares fell 4p to 109p. For the year to last December it reports a pre-tax loss of £1.36m against a £14,000 profit, probably the first loss ever reported by a Scotch whisky group.

Turnover fell from £15.18m to £10.74m. In the interim statement last October the group reported a first half loss.

Engineers get last chance for new council

By Derek Harris

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has called the leading professional institutions in engineering to a meeting next Tuesday as their last chance to reach a consensus on setting up of the Engineering Council, a new watchdog body for engineering.

Although Sir Keith is still hoping that a solution can be found the signs are not good. The institutions, under the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), want concessions which the Department of Industry finds difficult to give.

If the institutions do not make concessions on Tuesday, Sir Keith's hand will have been strengthened in giving them an ultimatum.

The Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) have told Sir Keith that they are prepared to back the Government in forming the new council without the active backing of the institutions.

The Conference of Engineering Professors has also urged Sir Keith to move quickly on forming the council even if institution opposition continued.

If no consensus emerges on Tuesday, Sir Keith appears likely to take the route of going ahead with the least unattractive of three options. Another, given that he would prefer an agreed solution as much as the CBI and EEF, would be to scrap the government initiative entirely.

The other option which is least favoured by Sir Keith, would be to give the new body statutory backing rather than relying on the present plan for a chartered body whose first members would be appointed by Sir Keith.

But setting up a body with statutory powers would be the only sure way of avoiding the big problem inherent in taking the non-statutory route.

That would set the new council up in opposition to CEI's system which already has a register of chartered engineers and dispenses the title of Chartered Engineer (C Eng.).

It could mean two competing systems with the new council seeking to set up its own register and accreditation systems and dispensing a different title such as registered engineer.

Sir Monty Finniston, whose report on manufacturing industry and the role of the profession 15 months ago called for a statutory solution to the problem of a new watchdog body, yesterday asked for a meeting with Sir Keith.

He will call for statutory action because of the problem of two competing systems.

Unchanged MLR helps sterling

By John Whitmore

Speculation on the future course of international interest rates continued to dominate sentiment in the leading financial markets yesterday.

The dollar, though steadier than on Wednesday, remained unsettled. Sterling, which had closed at $2.2930 in New York on Wednesday evenings, rapidly slid to $2.2675 on the thought that the Bank of England might try to stem the upward pressure by cutting minimum lending rate. But when no change was forthcoming the pound rallied to finish the day at $2.2815. Sterling's index against a basket of currencies ended unchanged at 100.2.

The feeling in domestic markets is that while upward pressure on sterling would undoubtedly lead the Government to consider a further reduction in MLR this spring, any further reduction in the near future would be highly unlikely.

For a start the Government has only just given its judgment on what it considers to be the appropriate level of interest rates. Secondly, the authorities will want to hold interest rates around their present level until they have achieved further funding.

Although the underlying rate of monetary growth continues to slow, the Government still has some way to go before it can confidently feel that it is on top of the situation. That means that the funding programme over the next few months is certain to remain fairly heavy.

In the four weeks to February 18, sterling M3, the broad measure of money, grew by 0.9 per cent, much as predicted by the Bank of England early last week. Although that takes the rate of growth over the past 12 months up to 20 per cent, the annualized rates of growth over the past six and three months respectively have been 13.75 per cent and 8.75 per cent.

The main reason for the slowdown has been the deceleration in credit demand from both the public and private sectors after the explosive growth of last summer.

In the latest banking month, the public sector saw a negative expansion on domestic credit expansion to the tune of £380m. This was after sales of government debt to the private sector of £1,040m, including a large increase in private sector investment in National Savings of £467m.

The inrease in bank lending to the private sector was slightly higher than last month at £550m. But after allowing for a further contraction in the "bill leak" of £230m, it looks as if the underlying increase in bank lending to the private sector is settling down at some £400m a month. This compares to £950m a month last summer and reflects heavy destocking by industry and the slowing rate of inflation.

Sterling bank lending to non-residents rose by £400m to leave total domestic credit expansion at £575m.

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Brazilian coal pact worth $400m to UK

By John Huxley

Orders for British companies worth more than $400m (£180m) will flow from an agreement on the development of the Brazilian coal industry signed in London by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade yesterday.

Although financial backing for projects has still to be concluded, the Government hopes that the first orders will be placed before the end of this year.

Among the first could be a contract for a power station at Santa Cruz, worth about $80m. Contenders for the order are Babcock International in joint venture with Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) and Foster Wheeler.

Yesterday's protocol was signed on Brazil's behalf by Dr Cesar Cals, minister for mines and energy. Shortly afterwards, an agreement was signed by Babcock Contractors and Companhia Auxiliar de Empreseas Electricas Brasileiras.

Mr William Ryder, managing director of Babcock Contractors, coal technology division, said that the company would coordinate the British coal industry's cooperation with Brazil and draw upon the expertise of the National Coal Board.

Among other projects under discussion are the development of the Prospera and Capivara mines and the provision of gasifier plant for Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul.

Brazil hopes to expand coal production by 1985 from five million tonnes to 27 million tonnes a year, as part of a long-term programme to reduce its dependence on oil, most of which is imported.

Babcock, which is already working on a coke oven for a steel project in Brazil, has been discussing cooperation on coal for more than two years.

Lloyds chief renews windfall tax attack

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, has attacked the proposed windfall bank profits tax in a special insert to the annual report. He says: "We shall be doing all we can to persuade the Government to change its mind before it is too late".

He confirms that the tax will cost Lloyds more than £60m if the Chancellor's proposals go through.

He says that the tax is damaging not only to shareholders but also to industrial borrowers, because "it will deplete our resources just when industry needs most our support".

He repeats that the Budget proposals will make British banks less competitive internationally and weaken their ability to earn profits overseas and adds the tax is especially disappointing in view of the measures the Chancellor has announced to help small companies, in which the banks will help.

In his statement to shareholders he says that the fall in profits because of rising sterling is preferable for the bank to the erosion of capital because of a declining currency. He sees the Far East and North America as the most promising areas for development.

The annual report includes a breakdown of income and expenses according to type of activity for the first time. Staff costs accounted for 64 per cent of operating expenses in 1980.

Savoy legal threat by Sir Charles Forte

By Philip Robinson

Sir Charles Forte last night instructed lawyers to prepare an application to the High Court to call a shareholders' meeting of the Savoy Hotel group for which Trusthouse Forte is bidding £58m.

His instructions went out within hours of receiving a reply from Sir Hugh Wontner, Savoy chairman, who is refusing to call the meetings of the "A" and "B" class shareholders himself. He has already dismissed Sir Charles's offer for the group, which owns the Berkeley, Claridge's and the Connaught hotels in London, as unwelcome and unacceptable.

A final decision to go into court is likely to be made by Sir Charles in about three days. In a statement yesterday he said Trusthouse would be proceeding as necessary to enable the proposals to be put before the Savoy shareholders.

Sir Charles wants his offers put to the vote because under the complicated Savoy voting structure—the "B" shares carry two votes, while 10 "A" shares are needed for just one vote—the entire "A" shareholders control 51 per cent of the total votes. Sir Charles has already said he could win control of the company with that.

Sir Charles said: "My people are with Warburgs (the merchant bank advisers) now. I think you have to apply to the court, but as we are members of the company with 88,000 'A' shares we are entitled to call the meetings."

Savoy shareholdings

Major "B" shareholders at March 13, 1981.
(Each share has two votes. Total number of shares 1.3m)

Sir Hugh Wontner and family	521,980
Control nominees (two accounts)	324,632
Childs nominees	155,138
The Securities Management Trust (Kuwaitis)	95,584
Mr Godfrey F. Neal	64,520

Major "A" shareholders at March 16, 1981.
(Ten shares are equal to one vote. Total shares 27.687m)

Barclays Bank nominees (five accounts)	19.3m
The Securities Management Trust (Kuwaitis)	8,940,000
Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte	1,033,358
Credit Suisse Zurich Nominees	928,500
Sir Hugh Wontner and family	538,885

Meanwhile, the Savoy says it is near to finding a buyer for the offices and flats above Simpson-in-the-Strand, near the Savoy hotel. The announcement that the Savoy intended to sell these two months ago prompted Sir Charles to make the bid which he had been thinking about three months before.

Under the Takeover Code, a company on the receiving end of a bid must get sharehorders' permission before disposing of assets. The price for the 70,000 square feet of offices and 20,000 square fet of residential flats is thought to be about £8m.

Sir Charles said: "We will of course oppose this and we are taking legal advice as to whether we can restrain them from selling it at all."

A shareholders' vote on the disposal could prove a dry run for Sir Charles and reveal the kind of support on which each side could rely if the takeover bid goes to the vote.

Trusthouse has reserved the right to abandon the scheme of arrangement, under which it intends to call the meetings, and make a general offer instead. This will be made if it runs into difficulties with calling the meetings or if the subsequent votes go against the group.

● Trusthouse Forte announced yesterday it had bought the 68-bedroom White Hart Hotel in Lincoln for £1.175m cash from Epicure Holdings.

China seeks Japanese loan deals

Tokyo, March 19—Mr Toshiwo Doko, president of the private Japan-China Association on Economy has told the Japanese Government that China wishes to continue with building four petrochemical plants but not the second stage of the Baoshan steelworks near Shanghai, if China can get Japanese coperation.

The association's president is said to have reported that China wanted Japan to agree to deferred payents rather than to straight cash deals. It also wanted low-interest government loans without specifying how they would be used and low-interest commercial loans, government sources said.

Mr Doko told Mr Rokusuke Tanaka, the Japanese industry minister, and Mr Masayoshi Ito, the foreign minister that he had told the Chinese it would be difficult for Japan to accept their request.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

PB Ind	16p to 255p	Hong K & Shang	13p to 185p
en Accident	12p to 340p	Johnson Matt	14p to 233p
lobal Nat Res	30p to 570p	Peko Wallsend	10p to 480p
uthrie Corp	25p to 800p	Tanks Cons	10p to 315p
all Engineer	14p to 170p	UC Invest	10p to 499p

Falls

llen H & Ross	3p to 363p	Rand Mine Prop	5p to 253p
ucas Ind	5p to 166p	Ranger Oil	5p to 630p
arievale	9p to 138p	Tomatin	4p to 109p
thegate Explor	15p to 370p	Wsley Hughes	5p to 228p
astons	8p to 132p	Ultramar	7p to 481p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
ustralia $	2.00	1.92
ustria Sch	34.70	32.50
elgium Fr	81.50	77.50
anada $	2.75	2.66
enmark Kr	15.34	14.54
inland Mkk	9.50	9.00
rance Fr	11.40	10.90
ermany DM	4.86	4.62
reece Dr	115.00	109.90
ongKong $	12.25	11.55
eland Pd	1.33	1.27
ly Lir	2350.00	2270.00
apan Yn	500.00	475.00
therlands Gld	5.36	5.10
Norway Kr	12.59	11.94
Portugal Esc	128.00	122.00
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.86
Spain Pta	196.00	187.00
Sweden Kr	10.75	10.20
Switzerland Fr	4.43	4.20
USA $	2.34	2.27
Yugoslavia Dnr	80.50	75.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Brewery company takes stake in beauty contest for £582,000

Mr Morley sells off a piece of Miss World

Mr Eric Morley of Miss World fame, the former Mecca chief, is selling part of his stake in the beauty contest company to Belhaven Brewery, the Scottish-based group of which he is joint chairman.

The deal, which is worth £582,000 and will be paid for in shares, comes after the decision by Lady Butlin, Sir Billy Butlin's window, to dispose of her 33 per cent share of Miss World. She recently sold her shares to Mr Morley, and the rest was held by Mr Trevor Baines, a Belhaven board colleague.

Belhaven will now take over half of Mr Morley's holding, although he will receive no profit from the Butlin transaction, and all of Mr Baines's shares.

The sale is part of Belhaven's diversification into the leisure industry, which started when Mr Morley took over last year. The group has already bought two holiday camps and earlier this month it raised £385,000 from the sale of two Scottish hotels to Ellerman Travel, which it said would be used to develop its leisure interests.

However, the new interest in leisure has not left the traditional brewing side neglected. The Belhaven board said yesterday that pretax profits for 1980, before the expansion took place, would not be lower than £500,000. This compares to 1979's pretax result of £111,000 and a previous year's loss of £57,000.

Mr Morley is also selling a dance hall he owns in arrangement with Rangers Football Club to Belhaven for £100,000 in an all-share deal. Although the hall, called Morley's Nite Spot, made a £112,000 loss in its first 11 months of trading, it is expected to be in profit by March 1982. Under the contract Belhaven retains the right to pull out if profits are not forthcoming by the end of October. In a third deal Belhaven is paying £1.2m for a 200-bed hotel, Playa el Retiro, near Torremolinos, Spain.

Mr Morley and his wife Julia, who now becomes managing director of Miss World UK, will continue to run the contest and Mr Morley has ensured the right to buy back his stake if Belhaven is taken over.

"We have signed with the Mark McCormack Agency, which represents stars like Bjorn Borg an dJack Nicklaus, to market the Miss World name which we have registered.

"This will enable us to set up franchises for clothes and make up, and the arrangement is already working." But he stressed that the Miss World contest would still take place in London with the proceeds going to charity. Last year Miss World made £57,000 pre-tax profits and assets, including the concept and trademarks, are valued at £490,000.

Belhaven and Miss World followers in the City were putting their faith in the deal as the Belhaven shares gained 3p to 37p.

Rosemary Unsworth

Engineering Employers Federation to submit dossier to Chancellor

State industries 'abuse' monopoly

Britain's engineering employers will submit a detailed dossier early next week to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, alleging that state industries are abusing their monopoly powers.

The submission will be based upon evidence provided by engineering companies throughout the country which has been *collated by the Engineering Employers' Federation.*

Mr Anthony Frodsham, director general of the federation, wrote to Sir Geoffrey earlier this week complaining that "the Government has fallen down badly on its own managerial role of the public sector, not least because we are ourselves so painfully achieving the changes in industry which your policies demand".

The federation has already emphasized that efforts by state industries to stay within their financing limits have often led to unreasonable trading practices rather than to attacks on inefficiency. The dossier is designed to stress the extent to which the engineering sector is suffering from this additional burden.

Like the rest of industry, the state industries are reining in their normal credit facilities and evidence collected by the federation will show that this action is not only exacerbating already considerable difficulties but in a number of cases will substantiate their allegations.

Fuel supplies are among the most sensitive subjects. Most regional gas boards previously allowed companies a seven-day "grace" period for payment of bills, in effect providing companies with 20 days in which to settle invoices.

But in cases notified to the federation area boards have abolished this period and unpaid balances attract interest. In the case of Scottish Gas, for example, this amounts to four per cent above clearing bank base rates.

One company has received an invoice for an extra 99p for being a day late; another was sent a demand for an additional £19 for being six days late in paying its bill.

A Yorkshire company had a minimum gas supply contract with the area board but because the company failed to consume the minimum under the terms of the contract the local gas board demanded £50,000 for the gas it had not used.

But the *difficulties are not restricted to* gas; British Telecom will be among other state industries cited in the federation's submission. It has reviewed its credit control policies and bills are now payable within three weeks of invoices being dispatched. It is claimed that failure to pay exposes companies to the risk of disconnexion within seven days.

According to the federation, one Glasgow company paid a bill for £3,000 on time but then found its telephones cut off because it had inadvertently failed to pay a £10 rental charge for an emergency telephone.

Apart from the obvious problems these developments have caused, the employers' federation will emphasize that most companies operate computerized systems geared to a 30-day payment cycle.

State industries, faced with rigorous application of external financing limits by the Treasury, acknowledge that one result has been that they have tightened up their debt collection procedures.

The North Eastern Gas Board said: "We have to be as fair as we can to our customers without cutting our throats. With another round of negotiations coming up for industrial users, we are having to look carefully at each individual case. *The good customer of today can be the* bankrupt of tomorrow".

Edward Townsend and Peter Hill

Japan fears American restraints on car imports

Mr Rokusuke Tanaka, Japan's international trade and industry minister, has indicated that it may be difficult to curb Japanese car exports to the United States without legal measures.

He told a parliamentary committee that he fears the United States may apply its anti-monopoly laws, depending on how the restraint on car exports is arranged.

He was commenting on the opinion expressed by Mr William French Smith, United States attorney general. Any agreement between America and Japan would have to be carefully constructed to avoid private lawsuits in the United States alleging government complicity in violating anti-monopoly laws, unless Japan made restraints legally binding on its car makers.

Swedish loan stock

The £50m loan stock issued by the Swedish Government closed yesterday and was oversubscribed. The issue is the first to be on tender basis for interest rates. The allotment yield is 13.57 per cent and the stock will bear interest of 13.5 per cent at an issue price of £99.77.

Siberia crude deposits

The Soviet Union will probably be able to extract very little oil from the gigantic Fazhenov deposits in Siberia, the Swedish research company, Tetuestudies, said.

TV sales surge

Television sets and other items have been in great demand in Tel Aviv since Mr Yoram Aridor, the finance minister announced a number of tax and duty reductions. According to some estimates, 90,000 television sets and 8,000 small cars have been imported or ordered since the reductions.

£469m state steel loss

Net losses of the Finsider group, Italy's public sector steel industry, more than trebled to about 1,100,000m lire (£462m) last year from 308,000m lire in 1979, Signor Pietro Sette, chairman of IRI, the state industry holding company, said.

Business profits down

Higher costs, mainly caused by rising labour costs, cut into German business profit margins in the second half of 1980. Business revenues totalled 107,200m Deutsche marks (£220,057m) in seasonally adjusted terms, down 5.5 per cent *from the first half.*

Record oil output

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries expanded their refining capacity by a record 17.47 per cent in 1980, an increase over the previous year of 929,400 barrels a day.

Rubber agreement

Malaysia has asked Romania to join the International Natural Rubber Agreement, Mr Paul Leong, the primary industries minister, said. He urged Romania to take advantage of Malaysia's special monthly consignment of 300 tons of natural rubber to eastern Europe.

Companies using tie-in sales face Office of Fair Trading inquiry

By David Hewson

Computer companies, breweries, petrol distributors and agricultural suppliers face preliminary investigation by the Office of Fair Trading for tie-in sales of their products to the supply of other goods.

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission* published yesterday also looked at the sale of television airtime, drugs, and restrictions placed by building societies on the choice of acceptable insurers, but found the arrangements were not against the public interest.

Tie-in sales occur when a particular type of goods or service cannot be acquired without another specified item.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, announced yesterday that she accepted the commission's conclusion that there was no need for legislation to prohibit full-line forcing and tie-in sales. Line-forcing is where one item cannot be acquired from a range without some or all of the remaining items.

The commission had studied the general effect on the public interest of such practices and found that the proportion of cases in which they operated against the public interest was not sufficiently high to justify a general prohibition.

The provisions of the Competition Act were *sufficient to* deal with practices against the public interest, but yesterday's report would be useful in identifying circumstances in which they were harmful, Mrs Oppenheim said.

A spokesman for the OFT said that the commission's report would be studied in coming weeks and the Office expected to look at areas where the report suggested investigation.

The commission had received complaints about ties in the hire or purchase of computer equipment. While reaching the conclusion that unjustified tie-in restrictions were the exception rather than the rule, the report lays down guidelines on computer sales and adds that there may be cases which merit investigation under the Competition Act.

Free trade loans made by breweries were not criticized by the report, but it said that tied tenancy agreements, which were outside the terms of its reference, appeared to be much more significant from the point of view of the public interest.

**Full-Line Forcing and Tie-In Sales* (HMSO £3.90).

Anger on failure to curb US textiles

By John Huxley

British textile leaders have reacted angrily to the European Commission's unwillingness to curb imports from the United States.

They claim that imports based on artificially-low energy and feedstock costs, are now causing "intolerable pressure" in certain sectors of British industry, especially those making man-made fibres.

Yesterday Mr Leonard Regan, *president of the British Textile* Confederation, said that the industry had lost patience with the Commission.

"The Commission has demonstrated its lack of will and lack of ability to defend the United Kingdom textile industry against disruption from United States imports.

"Further, it is attempting to conceal its failure with a smoke-screen of hollow claims."

The industry had hoped that safeguards, either in the form of voluntary restraint by the Americans or controls, would emerge from this week's meeting of the Council of Ministers. A report given to the ministers by Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the Commissioner for External Relations, suggested that little or no progress had been made.

The debate over alleged unfair competition from United States producers has rumbled on inconclusively for a couple of years, occasionally becoming sufficiently bitter for participants to fear that it would turn into a trade war.

Last year Britain was allowed to introduce quotas on a limited range of synthetic fibres and fibre products. Anti-dumping action has also been taken in respect of some American products.

The British Textile Confederation claims that American action over energy prices has been of limited significance.

"The decontrol of oil prices is welcome, but the Commission can claim no credit for this. It was a domestic decision by the United States. Further, the decontrol of oil meets only the smaller part of the problem of unfair energy pricing.

"Natural gas prices are more significant, and the administration has gone no further than to declare its intent to work in the direction of gas price decontrol before 1985."

Mr Regan called on the Government to take immediate action to curb imports.

Heavy fall in industry stocks

By Melvyn Westlake

A heavy fall in industry's stocks during the fourth quarter of 1980 is confirmed by figures published yesterday by the Department of Industry. But capital spending by companies is shown to have been higher than first thought.

Manufacturers and distributors cut their stocks by £824m in the final three months of last year, bringing the total fall for 1980 to an unprecedented £2,050m (seasonally adjusted, and at 1975 prices). This is a fall of more than 7 per cent in the level of stocks outstanding at the end of 1977.

A high proportion of the cut in stocks last year occurred in the manufacturing sector where *the reduction was £1,388m.* Stockholding levels are now back to about the levels of early 1977.

Investment by manufacturers and distributors in new buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery is estimated to have been £2,372m (seasonally adjusted and at 1975 prices). This brings total capital spending for 1980 to £9,647m, almost identical to the level of spending in 1979.

Estimates of spending in the fourth quarter of 1980 and the full year have now been revised upwards. The figures for 1978 and 1979 have also been revised upwards.

Table, page 22

£4.2m profit for BL bus making offshoot

By Edward Townsend

Bus Manufacturers (Holdings), in which BL has a 50 per cent stake, made a pre-tax *profit of* £4.2m last year, a 40 per cent increase on the previous year.

The company, whose products include the Titan double-deck and National single-deck buses, increased its sales in 1980 by 12 per cent to £69m.

The figures provide one of the few optimistic signs for the finances of BL, which will announce today its overall results for 1980, including an estimated loss of £400m, compared with £122m the previous year.

Bus Manufacturers, in which the other joint shareholder is the National Bus Company, was set up in the late 1960s and brought together the manufacturing operations of the companies that were formed into National Bus after the 1968 Transport Act.

The company, which employs about 3,000 is made up of Eastern Coachworks of Lowestoft and Charles Roe of Leeds, both bus body makers; Bristol Commercial Vehicles, which produces chassis; and Leyland National, of Workington.

BL said yesterday that the increase in profits had been the result of higher productivity at the four operations.

Redundancy notices: Two thirds of the 925 redundancies at the BL truck and tractor plant at Bathgate in West Lothian have been achieved voluntarily. Notices of compulsory redundancy will be issued today to the remaining 300.

Adult pay rates up 18pc

By Melvyn Westlake

The gross weekly earnings of men in full-time manual jobs on adult rates of pay, averaged £113.1 for 43 hours in October, 1980, an increase of more than 18 per cent compared to a year before.

The corresponding figures for women on adult rates were £68.7 for 37½ hours, also an increase of about 18 per cent.

The figures are given in the Department of Employment's annual survey of earnings and hours of manual workers in manufacturing, construction, gas, electricity and water supply, mining and quarrying (other than coal mining), transport and communications industries, public administration and some other services.

Earnings *figures exclude* companies where the employees were working short time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loans for small businesses

From Mr R. B. Tatler

Sir, Although well intentioned, the Chancellor has fumbled his handling of the loan guarantee scheme aimed at small business.

Nearly every advanced country has successfully developed such a scheme long ago—the exception being the United Kingdom. Despite this, and as might be suspected, its introduction had been bitterly resisted by the clearing banks who have argued that there was "no need". Of course, this line of argument follows the clearers narrow self-interest more closely than the urgent need of small businesses for finance.

The banks recognize that no small business will tolerate their restrictive lending practices, loaded as they are with personal guarantees and the like, if a proper commercial alternative is available. The guaranteed loan scheme provides just such an alternative. However, to have entrusted the administration of the scheme principally to the clearers is to entrust the chickens to the fox.

In contrast in the United States any lender on forming a small business loan company can lend money and obtain a government guarantee from the Small Business Administration. It is recognized as being competitive with the banks who would otherwise neglect propositions other than strictly orthodox.

Given the British clearing banks abysmal record of innovation and their near monopoly position it seems incredible to have entrusted the administration of the scheme to the banks.

Small businesses should not get too excited about the latest package in the Budget as typified by the loan guarantee scheme.

A phone call to Barclays Bank today produced the deadpan response that they have received no instructions from head office on the implementation of the scheme. Barclays Bank head office say nothing has yet been finalized with the Department of Industry. The Department of Industry (small *businesses section*) say that they are still trying to agree terms with the banks.

It is well known that the clearers have fought this proposal tooth and nail. They feel it would compete with their present lending which invariably necessitates directors personal guarantees.

Have the banks become so powerful that they can frustrate Government policy to suit themselves?

Yours faithfully,
R. B. TATLER,
Tudor Mansions,
Gondar Gardens,
London NW6.
March 16.

Changes to the Lloyd's Bill

From Mr S. Mervyn Herbert

Sir,—Mr John Follows' spirited exposition on the changes in the Lloyd's Bill (March 18) reads reasonably, but it of course misses the point.

Nobody has any desire to preclude Lady Middleton from exercising her undoubted right to intervene in the parliamentary progress of the Bill. The objection is to her purporting to do it as a representative of the Lloyd's Names at large.

The facts are that Lady Middleton was appointed chairman of a steering committee which was intended to set up the organization needed to assist the External Members of Lloyd's to prepare for the statutory responsibility they will have (when the Bill goes through) of electing members of the new Council of Lloyd's. This the steering committee has signally failed to do, devoting its efforts instead to altering the Bill—an activity which was *certainly not* confided to it.

The great mass of the 15,000 names at Lloyd's are not interested in the concern of Lady Middleton and her colleagues "to improve" the Bill and they are naturally outraged that she should be representing to do this in their name—not to say with money they subscribed for a totally different purpose.

Yours faithfully,
S. MERVYN HERBERT,
16/17 Bride Lane,
London EC4Y 8EB.
March 18.

From Mr D. N. Vermont

Sir, Mr John Follows' arguments (March 18) are seductive, but they do not alter the fact that Lady Middleton represents a tiny minority of the membership of Lloyd's. The "working Names" devoutly hope that she will not get more support because, first, there never has been any division in the interests of members and there is not one now and, secondly, the agents are the bodies properly constituted to look after all members' interests.

Nobody disputes Lady Middleton's right to do what she has done and she has even been given facilities by the Committee of Lloyd's, but it is also right that MPs and the public should realize the paucity of her support, and the reasons for it.

Yours faithfully,
D. N. VERMONT,
Frodsham,
Sawbridgeworth,
Hertfordshire.

Washing with cold water

From Mrs Margaret Wilson

Sir, With reference to Mrs Skevington's letter (March 17) recounting her use of cold water clothes washing powder I, too, have a machine with a cold water programme. During a stay in the United States I *used regularly a product* marketed by Colgate Palmolive and found the results quite satisfactory.

In June, 1980, I wrote to Colgate Palmolive UK asking why I could not purchase a similar washing powder in this country and their answer was "At present we have no plan for marketing this product in the United Kingdom."

Electricity costs are high and in any case, we should be conserving energy resources. I would like to contribute to the reduction of our electricity bill (and my husband would be delighted) and cannot understand why the housewives of this country are denied the supply of a satisfactory cold water washing powder.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WILSON,
4 Grice Avenue,
Biggin Hill,
Kent.

Nigerian action against corruption

From Mr S. T. Fahm

Sir, You carried a report by John Keeble in your issue of March 9, highlighting what he saw as "The corruption that grips Nigeria". You also showed a photograph of what purported to be the Lagos harbour, with the additional caption that "bribery was used to help clear ships".

The report was not only misleading, but also irresponsible and mischievous. There is little doubt that corruption in one form or another does exist in business and commercial circles in West Africa and Europe and it is not, therefore, a peculiar Nigerian disease. What is incontrovertible is the fact that the phenomenon of corruption which may at present be prevalent in Nigeria has come about as a direct result of the activities of expatriates, both European and non-European, in business and commerce who have descended on the country like locusts since the oil boom created the "honey pot" situation in Nigeria and who take it upon themselves to want to do the impossible and solicit support and assistance from Nigerians from the humblest to the highest in connection with their own activities in the country.

Your correspondent failed to *mention the fact that the* Nigerian government has established a public complaints commission in each of the 19 states of the federation with the object of dealing exclusively with provable allegations of corruption and these commissions have powers which enable them to summon witnesses and pronounce judgments which can only be challenged through the courts.

To suggest, as your correspondent did, that bribery was used to help clear ships is dishonest and unworthy of a journalist. The story of dock congestion in Lagos harbour is too well known to bear repetition, but the whole world was aware at the time of the number of cement ships which *found their way into Nigeria* and the problems which the government had in ensuring an orderly discharge of cargo are well known to those engaged in the commercial life of Nigeria.

Your correspondent's allegations are riddled with observations of his contacts based largely on hearsay and to damnify a whole nation in the way he implied in connection with the British Inland Revenue, is as unfortunate as it is insensitive. Nigeria is the only country in the whole of black Africa where the *president and chief executive is prepared* to declare his assets for the whole world to know and correspondents, such as your own, should ensure that facts *relating to misdemeanours,* including corruption, which can be proved are placed in the hands of the appropriate authorities before rushing to throw stones from their own proverbial glasshouses.

Anyone who is a Nigerian and who has lived in this country for some time must have been aware of the Poulson enquiries, the Stern/Crown Agents reports and more recently the revelations which surfaced at the trial of Lord Kagan, not to mention the disclosures which accompanied the report of "Operation Countryman" which dealt with bribery and high level corruption within the Metropolitan Police Force. No one is saying that this is typical of the United Kingdom, but to publish in a paper of the standard of *The Times*, crude and unsubstantiated allegations, is unfair, both to the country and to the people of Nigeria.

Yours faithfully,
S. T. FAHM,
81 Apollo Way,
Blackwood,
Gwent.
March 12.

Wide role of secretaries' association

From Mrs P. A. Wride

Sir, As a member of the European Association of Professional Secretaries, I cannot help but be irritated and dismayed by Ross Davies's trivializing account of our United Kingdom branch annual dinner in Business Diary on March 13. The item would appear to be of total inconsequence for *The Times*, EAPS and not least the supportive and eminent people who attended the dinner, for and with whom we work.

There was a paucity of information about EAPS, which has members drawn not only from among experienced secretaries but from commercial and industrial corporations and well respected institutions, which belong as corporates or affiliates, and other sources of note. In addition, EAPS fields members on a variety of educational and advisory committees, *provides speakers for secre*tarial and management training courses, and has a developed programme of informative and enjoyable business functions and meetings, to which top calibre speakers come very willingly.

Agreed, it is perhaps a little unusual for bosses to be taken out by their secretaries, but our annual dinner is a perfectly straightforward business function, no different in every other respect to the numerous other such events which executives attend. Shame on The Thunderer, and Mr Davies, for perpetuating all the silly and embarrassing innuendoes of office life, which are irrelevant for EAPS members and their bosses and associates.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA WRIDE,
European Association of Professional Secretaries,
114 Park Street,
London W1Y 4AB.
March 16.

EEC steel output rises by 2.6 pc

By Peter Hill.

European steel producers increased output by 2.6 per cent last month against the trend in the non-Communist world. This was achieved despite the mandatory production quotas of the EEC Commission to stabilize the market and to harden prices.

Figures issued last night by the International Iron and Steel Institute in Brussels revealed that crude production in the non-Communist world fell by almost 3 per cent last month to 36.2 million tonnes, with only the EEC producers showing any marked upturn.

Production among the 29 member countries reporting to the IISI fell by 5.8 per cent, compared to the corresponding period last year, with the steepest fall in Japan.

The IISI said that output among EEC producers rose by 2.6 per cent, with crude steel amounting to 10 million tonnes.

Producers have been ordered to limit output under crisis *measures introduced at the end* of last year and which are due to end at the end of June.

The Commission hopes that the steel producers will be able to agree on a system of voluntary production curbs to follow the mandatory regime, although many producers consider this to be unrealistic.

Compared to a year earlier, EEC production was 5.6 per cent lower, with a fall of 15.7 per cent being recorded by Japan and a drop of 3.4 per cent in crude steel output by American producers.

Chip for cheaper viewdata

By Bill Johnstone

Mullard, the semiconductor manufacturing subsidiary of Philips, has launched a microchip which could reduce the price of a viewdata television set substantially.

The new chip called Lucy (line coupling unit asynchronous receiver/transmitter) will reduce the difference between the price of an ordinary television set and one designed for *Prestel by nearly 30 per cent,* giving a saving of between £100 and £200.

It is hoped that the new chip will give added impetus to the viewdata market in the United Kingdom which has about 8,000 users, many of whom are businessmen.

The Lucy chip will be made at the Mullard semiconductor plant in Southampton, Hampshire, where other chips are made for sets which can receive Ceefax and Oracle the broadcast teletext services.

About 170,000 pages of information are available in the Prestel system through an ordinary telephone circuit. Ceefax and Oracle broadcast about 500 pages.

The level of sales of viewdata sets in Britain has been *much lower than expected.* Manufacturers of sets and of electronic components and adaptors for viewdata and teletext met in London in January to formulate a policy to boost sales.

Last year 90,000 out of a total of 1.9 million colour television sets of all sizes sold in the United Kingdom were for teletext and only 5,000 for viewdata.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Cadbury moves into top gear

News of Cadbury Schweppes' £4m profit increase to £61.3m last year impressed the stock market, which has only recently started to come to terms with the group's transformation during the past three years.

The shares gained 5p to 83½p, and certainly the result is a vindication of Cadbury's decision four-years ago to pull back from scatter-gun diversification and concentrate on the mainstream businesses while investing heavily in automation. Thus, trading margins have even been raised a fraction to 7.2 per cent in the midst of recession and in the face of slack demand in most product areas.

Strong improvements in Australia and South Africa account for the increase, while an accounting change has boosted profits by about £1m. But Cadbury has clearly been winning a larger share of a declining market in the United Kingdom

Meanwhile, tight control on working capital has reduced borrowings and strengthened the balance sheet to the extent that Cadbury can talk confidently of further expansion moves in the United States.

Yielding 7 per cent after a maintained final dividend—the interim went up by a quarter—and total dividends covered one-and-a-half times by current cost earnings, the shares should make further headway. Certainly, in the short-term they should outperform Rowntree-Mackintosh which is expected to reveal lower profits next month, though higher operational gearing and volume sensitivity behind Rowntree's comparatively weak performance could result in that group producing a dramatic profits surge when demand finally picks up.

• *Money supply growth of 0.9 per cent in banking February was roughly in line with last week's official prediction. The underlying monthly growth in bank lending to the private sector seems to be settling down at around £490m, less than half the peak rate of last summer. How much further this will fall is open to debate but the present figure is not all that low at a time when the destocking cycle is near its bottom.*

Meanwhile, the external finance item has turned positive, presumably reflecting the current account surplus and other resident funds appear to be accumulating in foreign currency to take advantage of higher dollar interest rates.

In these circumstances pressure to generate further capital outflows will intensify as dollar interest rates decline. Little wonder that markets are already looking for another early cut in MLR.

ICL

A Government lifeline

Whatever the arguments over ICL's role in the computer industry, the Government at least seems prepared to give the group the benefit of the doubt that there is a future provided it can survive its short-term cash haemorrhage. That seems to be the conclusion from yesterday's support package from the Department of Industry involving a government guarantee on a further £200m of bank loans and research and development help of £10-£12m over the next few months.

After spending most of the 1970s trying to trade out of the Government's £40m grant, ICL is back to square one except this time the figures are bigger and the risks greater. Even if ICL can struggle through the next couple of years—and the Minister for Trade admitted yesterday that government support had become essential—the question for shareholders is what sort of financial state the group will be in.

Plainly everything hinges in the trading outlook. With the cash outflow now being put in the region of £150m it looks as though conditions have deteriorated further since the start of the year when the drain looked about half that. With virtually all the existing bank overdraft facilities of [illegible]0m now used up, it is likely that the further £200m facilities could be exhausted in no time—unless there is radical action now.

Even taking the best possible outcome, it could well be years before gearing gets back in tune with shareholders' funds which are likely to have fallen to £100m by the end of this year.

The other question so far unanswered is the conditions that attach to the Government guarantee. The terms for the loans are likely to be onerous and the guarantee is linked to the company's performance over the next two years which suggests imminent management changes in view of the way the group was suddenly caught out by the downturn in the market last year. At the 47p suspension price, the group is capitalized at £56m, which reflects bid hopes rather than trading prospects.

Tricentrol

An exercise in purity

When many of the Unted States oil majors are seeking their fortunes in diversification into other natural resources, Tricentrol is moving against the trend in deciding that its prospects and market rating will be enhanced if it can put on a pure exploration face. Certainly, its pot-pourri of commercial operations has taken some of the gloss off a straight oil exposure.

But the key to Tricentrol's plans to demerge the non-oil and gas interests appears to lie in its ambitions in North America where investors tend to be less sympathetic to the diversification argument. Thus, potential partners in the United States and Canadian energy field should find the group's paper more acceptable, and with the United States already taking the main thrust of the exploration effort, the group has been persuaded that expansion will be easier if it can command a pure energy rating.

The success of the share placing in the United States and Canada last year and now the deterrent in the latest Budget on the North Sea is causing the group to turn its back on Britain.

That, rather than the final figures showing net income up by half to £15.8m, which unlike earlier years was no better than market expectations, was enough to see the shares 22p up at 306p, enthusiasm that was also reflected in New York. Meanwhile Tricentrol will need to show all its entrepreneurial flair in emphasizing the growth attractions of its slightly nebulous "high technology projects" if the non-oil company that it will be getting a quote for is not to fall flat on its face.



• *BICC, whose chairman is Sir Raymond Pennock (above), placed just over £13m worth of new equity in the London market yesterday to fund the acquisition in the United States of Boschert, an electronic components business. It supported this with an estimate of 1980 profits—up by 13¾ per cent to £74.6m—an intention to raise the dividend by 10 per cent and an indication that the balance sheet has strengthened during the past 12 months. The placing duly went like clockwork.*

BICC will publish final 1980 figures in three weeks, but it has been clear for some time that it would be an exception to the rule among British manufacturers this year.

One reason is that BICC started rationalizing its United Kingdom cables group, which contributes around 23 per cent of profit, three or four years ago and is able to benefit from these measures during the recession; another, that it has been able to win a high order book overseas, notably in the Middle East. The shares responded by gaining 4p to 213p yesterday where they yield 6.3 per cent, a rating which reflects BICC's performance, but still leaves scope for buyers.

Technology

A breathing-space for ICL

In the volatile mixture of high technology and highly competitive marketing that is the general purpose computer business bubbles can burst easily and high flyers can crash rapidly to earth.

Yesterday's announcement by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, that ICL, Britain's (and Europe's) largest indegenous computer company, is to receive a guarantee of up to £200m for up to two years should restore some stability to that company's operations, at least for the time being.

But what are the long-term prospects, what went wrong and what lessons are there for the future?

In essence, the company's present problems arise from a combination of poor business in 1980 and a requirement for high research and development spending. The high R and D spending is a characteristic of the computer industry; the poor business year was in part a reflection of the general economic depression, aggravated by earlier price cuts by IBM, the American-owned market leader.

Although news of ICL's ill fortune appeared to take the City by surprise last year, the signs were there some time before—both for ICL management and for outside observers.

Could the company's serious position have been avoided by any big change in its span of activity or range of products? The answer is "not really", although this has been suggested by critics recently.

At present the company has a wide range of mainframe computers, a strong minicomputer line, substantial software and bureau operations and a recently launched viewdata activity. After initial software problems in recent years with its complex larger machines, ICL has now evolved a sound, across-the-board technology base.

It has developed two ingenious computer devices (known as the distributed-array processor and the content-addressable file store), which are world leaders in technology. Last June it began selling printed circuit boards, using advanced technology, to outside customers in the electronics, telecommunications and computer industries.

ICL's present financial illness coincides (and contrasts) with this technological health. Rather than that it should cut back to concentrate on one particular sector or another, it could be argued that ICL's future health would be better assured by an expansion (through links with other companies, for example) into other branches of the converging information-technology industries.

But though such links, into telecommunications and overall office automation in particular, may well be desirable for the long-term development of the company, they could not have helped—indeed, they would have exacerbated—its present problems.

It would be prudent for a computer company geared up to an annual 20 per cent growth rate and investing in R and D accordingly to make some provision for a bad year. Within ICL there is a feeling that top management has not been running the ship tightly enough: that a tougher management style would have been more effective.

For the National Enterprise Board the situation will be ironic. Had the board not been instructed to dispose of its holding in ICL the present crisis probably would not have arisen. Not only would access to the required resources have been facilitated, but the monitoring of the company's operations, which forms a routine part of the board's activities with any company in which it has a holding, could well have given an early warning of the deteriorating position and could have led to some corrective action.

Sir Keith mentioned yesterday the importance which the Government attached to the continued health of ICL by virtue of the fact that the Government is a major user of the company's products. This has been one factor in the continued support for the company since its formation in 1968 from successive governments, both Labour and Conservative.

But by the end of 1979 the Government's 25 per cent holding in ICL had been shed and one year later the preference in central government computer procurement in favour of ICL was ended under EEC rules and those of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). This was the last remnant of the national policy which shaped the formation of the company in 1968.

The guarantee announced yesterday, Sir Keith emphasized, was for a limited amount—and for a limited time. It should give the company the opportunity to review its longer-term business opportunities.

Over the past year Dr Christopher Wilson, ICL managing director, has been arguing that there should be a public sector computer procurement policy for the European Community which would benefit the "truly European industry". Public sector business should be awarded in accordance with a priority list, he proposes, ranging from a nationally based European supplier to an international competitive bid.

ICL has about 9 per cent of the European computer market (and about 3 per cent of the worldwide computer market). The European market, and the world market, are dominated by American suppliers.

"If Europe's computer requirements are met primarily by the United States", Dr Wilson says, "with Japan as the principal second source, then those two countries will have their hands upon the means to control the pace and direction of Europe's social and economic development."

Kenneth Owen

Savoy battle: how do both sides measure up?

When Sir Charles Forte, executive chairman of Trusthouse Forte (THF), opened his battle to control the Savoy Group of hotels, Mr Giles Shepard, the Savoy's managing director described THF as a vast combine "which, among other things, runs service stations on the main arterial roads and airport catering. . . ."

Sir Hugh Wontner, chairman of the Savoy since 1948, remarked of Sir Charles: "He knows nothing about the running of first-class hotels." (Sir Charles, for his part, had just called the Savoy management "a disgrace".)

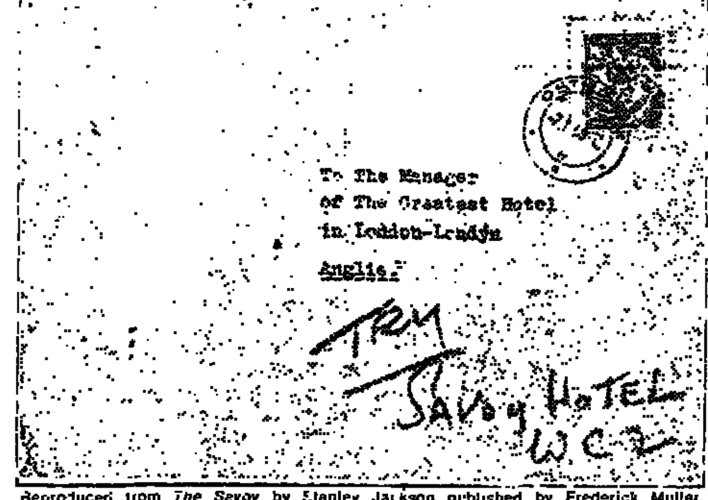
Mr Shepard's remark was obviously calculated to remind us all about the fracas Sir Charles once had with Mr Egon Ronay, self-styled guardian of catering standards, who had found the food served at many motorway service stations (by no means only the Trusthouse Forte ones) not to his taste.

"Arterial roads" was also a neat choice of words to trigger off responses in the public mind: THF has a highly successful (in commercial terms) chain of Little Chef cafes dispensing fast food. They all have similar menus and portion control in meals is the cornerstone of their success. Not the way to run de luxe hotels, of course.

But how far is it true that the ebullient Sir Charles, presiding over the second largest hotel chain in the world (Holiday Inns is the largest) is not fit to be let loose at the luxury end of the market? And are Sir Hugh and his team necessarily the only answer for the nonpareil among hotels?

Style is obviously what Sir Hugh believes he has over Sir Charles. But, as everybody knows, that style comes dear at present, with the Savoy Group running into recent losses that probably are continuing still. Some other hoteliers hazard that the Savoy Hotel itself has been running at lower room occupancies lately than some others in the luxury bracket.

It is not yet style at any cost although Sir Hugh seems to have been far too scornful of marketing hard in the tough hotel business whose realities even legendary hotels ignore at their peril. The Savoy Group does have international reservation chain connexions. But the Savoy Hotel itself seems to have been too supinely reliant on American customers whose numbers diminished as sterling grew strong and recession took its toll.



Reproduced from *The Savoy* by Stanley Jackson published by Frederick Muller.

A popular view of The Savoy Hotel.

THF spotted the drifting American trend in time to drum up more custom from the continent, visitors from which last year tended to offset the American decline.

If Sir Charles got the Savoy the danger could be profit at any cost. That, says his critics, would mean the loss of that *je ne sais quoi* that separates the merely first class hotel from the very great.

Mr Joseph Max Munzel, of Plainfield, New Jersey, put the point rather more colourfully the other day in a letter to the *Financial Times*. Mr Munzel is one of the smaller shareholders in the Savoy Group, investing because he likes the Savoy Hotel for its thoughtful service, friendly atmosphere and its sense of history.

He had stayed at the George V in central Paris, one of three Forte hotels there. He wrote: "There were holes in the sheets. The service was efficient but cold. The lights in my room were dim and the food was indigestible. But anyone who can read a ledger knows that the George V turned in a profit."

Has the George V suffered under THF in the past decade? Every customer will give it his own personal rating, but the Michelin Guide awards it the highest number of normal rating points, five. The other luxury class THF hotel in Paris, the Plaza Athénée—whose staff protested in the streets when THF took over—gets the Michelin accolade of five red symbols, an honour shared only with the Paris Ritz.

Mr Ronay, in the mid-seventies put the Athénée—when it was already under THF management—among the best 18 hotels in the European Economic Community.

He also included in that select band THF's Grosvenor House, which with the Hyde Park Hotel is at the top of the THF range in London. He and *Michelin's Great Britain Guide* take about the same view of these two hotels.

Mr Ronay reckons that any hotel which gets 85 percentage points or more on his scale is in the de luxe class as opposed just to first class. The Grosvenor House has been at 88 points for some time and the Hyde Park, now at 82, put on a couple of points in 1980.

The view of some hoteliers is that the Hyde Park has improved. But the Automobile Association's hotels and restaurants guide hands out none of its coveted red stars either to the Grosvenor House or the Hyde Park, although they rate five black stars for their facilities.

If Sir Charles comes out of this sort of comparison better than he is given credit for, the case of the Pierre Hotel in New York's Manhattan may tip the balance the other way. Mr Ronay last time round rated it the best New York hotel. In less than ten years THF, running the Pierre on a management contract, had turned it in to profit after years of losses, spending some $2m in the process.

But a three-year break clause in the management contract came up at the beginning of this year and THF lost it to the Toronto-based Four Seasons group which runs London's Inn on the Park.

Mr Ronay thinks well of the Savoy Group's Berkeley, that splendid hostelry in Knightsbridge with the atmosphere of an elegant private house. At one time it rated 96 points and slipped to 90 before settling at its present 92 on the Ronay scale. The group's Connaught and Claridges also scored 92.

But the Savoy itself, the jewel in the Savoy crown, once rated at 94 per cent, is now out of Mr Ronay's de luxe category at 84 per cent. It dropped below the 85 mark a couple of years ago. Mr Ronay said yesterday: "This is still an outstanding hotel. But despite some spending on improvements and maintenance it is not what it used to be either in inner appearance nor in the service it offers. One, for instance, gets complaints about the switchboard. The cooking has gone down."

Other hoteliers say at least £5m needs spending on the Savoy to bring it up to scratch.

The question that hangs over Sir Hugh and his board is whether, protected more than most from shareholder pressure to maximise profits, they might let the Savoy Hotel slip into an elegant decline that would go just too far. It cannot be enough simply to wait for the tourist influx which the Royal wedding will bring to ease the financial lameness or hope for more favourable currency shifts to bring in more Americans.

The question which many people ask about Sir Charles Forte as potential head of the Savoy Group is whether a large chain would, however much it might try, leach out the ambience of the great hotel. Would the Savoy—and its sister hotels, the Berkeley, Connaught and Claridges—become just another group of over-so-elegant assets for the accountants to manipulate?

Derek Harris

Europe grows nervous over interest rates

Peter Norman

Brussels

The finance ministers of the European Economic Community agreed this week that interest rates are too high and ought to come down. If the politicians have their way, their is likely to be some sort of coordinated effort by the EEC member states, between now and the world economic summit in Ottawa in July, to involve the United States in action to bring down rates from their present high levels.

Even supporters of the idea admit that a lot of thought has still got to be put into such a project, while central bankers are already expressing profound scepticism.

Support for the idea is particularly strong in countries like West Germany, Holland and Belgium where real interest rates (nominal rates adjusted for inflation) are very high. Inflation in Germany is at present oscillating between 5 and 6 per cent, but since the tightening of the federal bank policy on credit last month, short-term rates have been hovering around 12 per cent and long-term capital market rates above 10 per cent. In Belgium, which has an inflation rate similar to that of West Germany, the real interest rate is even higher.

High real interest rates like these are a dampener on economic growth. A sudden tightening of credit conditions, such as that which occured in West Germany last month, may not affect the long-term investment programmes of large companies, but it has an impact on the investment plans of small and medium-sized businesses and the construction industry.

So, with Western Europe in a recession, it is hardly surprising that men like Herr Hans Matthöefer, West Germany's Social Democrat finance minister, should be tempted to call for international "concerted action" to cut rates.

On paper nothing looks easier. Such a move would be readily understandable and could work through swiftly into increased economic activity.

But recent history suggests that such a move would have to be the product of unusually favourable circumstances. There have been very few occasions when a concerted reduction in interest rates has been either possible or desirable and circumstances at present look particularly unfavourable.

Much of the blame for the present high level of interest rates in Europe has been laid at the door of the United States. But as Mr Alfons Van Der Stee, the Dutch finance minister, admitted this week, the Americans are only following the advice given to them—often gratuitously—by European politicians over the past few years, that they should concentrate on reducing their double figure inflation rate.

"What would happen if we were to ask the Americans to lower their interest rates?" asked one senior European central bank official this week. "They would laugh in our faces—and rightly so."

Away from the political limelight there is a strong feeling among European monetary officials that the new American Administration should be given time to get on with the task of pushing through its economic policies.

"The last thing we should do is fly off on some half-baked initiative," said one official. "If we discourage the Americans from fighting inflation at this stage we shall have a hell of a lot more trouble in the future—in six or nine months time."

In the months up to Ottawa there are likely to be contradictory pressures on policy development. The populist, political drive to cut interest rates is likely to meet resistance particularly in the central banks, which have to push through monetary policy. Nor will this resistance be conditioned solely by the belief that American inflation must be brought under control.

High real interest rates in countries like Germany and Belgium, which appear "unfair" in government circles, reflect domestic economic problems as well as the competitive lure of American capital markets. Germany would have no difficulties with credit policy if it were not running the largest current account balance of payments deficit in the world. Belgium would have less cause to complain if it were not saddled with the highest *per capita* level of state debt in the West.

But even if the idea of a frontal assault on interest rates loses favour, the issue is unlikely to disappear. A cynical view is that political prestige has now been invested in the observation that interest rates are too high and, as long as the level is dictated by developments in the United States, governments are presented with a useful alibi for failings at home.

But there is also a belief among most European governments that a different policy mix in the United States might at least prevent extravagant rate rises.

The coming months are likely to see an attempt on the part of the Europeans to gain a better understanding of how United States interest rates function and how they are managed. One big difference between the United States and Europe would seem to be in the treatment of interest payments by the tax authorities.

The 20 per cent interest rate that draws capital from Europe across the Atlantic causing rates in the EEC to move upwards is viewed differently by the United States consumer who enjoys generous provisions for offsetting interest payments against tax. What appears to the European investor to be a high real dollar interest rate could even be a negative rate to the American debtor paying United States taxes.

Another key area where the level of mutual understanding could be increased is the working of different types of monetary policy—such as the American monetary base system—on interest rate movements.

These technical issues are already the subject of continuing contact between the United States and the European central banks at the political level. There is much to be said for the members of the European monetary system improving their policy coordination towards the dollar.

In the past, accidental factors have given an extra upward push to interest rates and there is legitimate concern that this should not happen while they are at the present high levels.

Interest rate disarmament may look Utopian, but there is important scope for cooperation to avoid competitive interest rate increases.

Business Diary: Greeks bearing gifts? • Insurance's Ombudsman

Virgil's line about fearing Greeks even though they bear gifts is not deterring born-again pragmatist John Biffen and Sir Francis Sandilands from receiving with open arms a posse of Greek bankers and politicians.

Sir Francis, chairman of Commercial Union Assurance, is also chairman of the City's Committee on Invisible Exports and it was in this role yesterday that he entertained to lunch a delegation of bankers, who are here under the leadership of Euthymios Christodoulou, governor of the National Bank of Greece.

John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, has received in his turn Greece's Minister for Economic Coordination, [illegible]on Paleokrassas.

Biffen's department wants to resuscitate a £160m bid by a British consortium led by GEC to build and supply coal to a power station in Greece. Paleokrassas, having been told that we are not getting our whack of Greek gifts, is said to have said soothingly that the Memorandum of Understanding signed last year still stands.

Governor Christodoulou and his team were talking to Sir Francis and his team about city services the Greeks might require. Today the banker opens a branch of the National Bank here and signs a loan—the first non-European $100m worth—from Arab institutions, among them a new one capitalized at $1,000m, the Arab Banking Corporation.

Brian Hord, the Euro-MP for London West, is organizing what he describes as a "Beat the French" conference on Tuesday week in County Hall, London.

He is lining up experts from the European Commission and the Department of Trade, as well as "a Frenchman", to tell civil engineers how to "beat the French at their own game and win a greater share of lucrative aid contracts in the developing countries".

"A Frenchman" turns out to be Andre Auclert, head of finance and administration in directorate general VIII in Brussels, which deals with development.

Hord, a chartered surveyor, and a member of the European Democratic Group — Tories to you — says that contracts worth millions of pounds for building roads, runways and other big engineering jobs are being paid for from European funds

The precise and dapper military mien of solicitor James Haswell, the new Insurance Ombudsman, is not deceptive. Haswell spent many years with the Army Legal Service and says that sorting out the financial, legal and marital problems of the soldiery was excellent training for holding the ring between insurance companies and dissatisfied policy-holders.

This particular ombudsman was the idea of General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal Insurance, which unlike fellow insurers saw the need for an independent alternative to the courts.

Watching the watchdog will be the Council of the newly-formed Insurance Ombudsman Bureau (financed initially by the same three), peopled by representatives from, among others, the Consumers' Association and the Citizens Advice Bureau and under the chairmanship of the redoubtable Mrs Joan Macintosh, vice-chairman of the National Consumer Council and formerly with the Foreign Office.



Mr James Haswell.



Mrs Joan Macintosh

Haswell will be in business from the end of the month as "counsellor, conciliator, arbitrator and adjudicator" to deal with grievances and complaints from disgruntled motorists, householders and travellers who insure with any of the nine Insurance Ombudsman Bureau companies.

Despite the initial snottiness of other insurers, the list of those thinking of signing up grows by the hour, as more and more fancy the whiter than white mantle that IOB membership might bestow.

• It looks as if the slump is causing a chain reaction in chemical industry trade associations.

The British Plastics Federation is the latest such association to run into financial difficulties. The Chemical Industries Association has already announced that it is to shed about 30 jobs.

The plastics federation made an operating loss last year. This is not unprecedented, but the amount is disturbingly large—as much as £200,000.

Like most other industry organizations it is now working hard to keep its members. About 350 companies belong to it, but it is said that "dozens" have indicated that they want to resign.

It is an understandable economy in a time of great difficulty, but Anthony Holmes-Walker, the federation director, and his team are talking to each company individually to try to persuade them that it is not in their best interests to bale out now that the going is tough.

He has not been helped by a hefty increase in fees, calculated on last year's turnover when business was more buoyant.

Meanwhile, the plastics federation is cutting its coat—plastic mac?—according to its members' cloth. Over the past 12 months the wage bill has been cut by 15 per cent, with staff slimmed from 50 to 41.

• My detestation of the awards business abated for a moment when a haughty-sounding woman from an advertising agency telephoned to ask me to present the Advertising Circle Honours in London.

How refreshing, I thought, to intersperse the back-slapping with a few unkind words from an unbeliever; and, even as my caller spoke, fragments of a speech came to mind . . . ". . . circle a lot of twerps . . . only last month bowed to industry pressure and abandoned plans to give brickbats as well as bouquets this year . . .".

Then the haughty lady's words cut into my consciousness, as she said: "Alan Coren is ill and you're next on our list." After all, I was a television critic and would therefore do . . .

It was at this point that I had to restrain myself from accepting the invitation.

Candour prevailed, and I let the haughty lady in on a secret—the chap she wanted was not me, Ross Davies, but Russell Davies, the television chap on *The Sunday Times*, with whom I am occasionally confused by our common switchboard.

Freudian slip of the week, I think, was when a BBC Radio newsreader said: "Mr Roy Jenkins, speaking at a Budget—er—banquet . . ." Sir Geoffrey's latest effort did rather bring to mind one or two of Woy's when in office. Alternatively, could the newsreader have been thinking that we will see Jenkins back with the little red box ere long?

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Hopes of cut in MLR boost gilts

Indications from the Treasury that the recession was bottoming out, and renewed speculation of another cut in MLR, attracted further institutional support yesterday.

Share prices raced ahead from the start with strong support for second liners. Jobbers, still under pressure from a general stock shortage and lack of selling pressure, are already talking of going through the 525 mark some time during the next account. The current strength of Wall Street is a major incentive.

Sentiment was also supported yesterday by the long list of bid situations and the exceptionally large number of company results. Full-year figures from **Cadbury Schweppes** pushed the shares up 5p to 83½p.

Building shares again came in for close scrutiny but early demand for gold on the back of the bullion price soon petered out as it closed $1 down at $508.50 an ounce.

The *FT* Index opened 0.5 higher and rallied to 6.4 at 3 pm, before profit taking on the back of early trading on Wall Street saw it close 5.6 up at 496.7.

The continued strength of sterling and talk of another cut in MLR kept Government securities moving ahead. Dealers opened prices about £¼ higher in anticipation of foreign buyers. In the event, most of the demand was from home-based institutions. Prices at one stage were as much as £1¼ higher. The Government Broker sold a little more of the new tap Exchequer 12¼ per cent 1990 at £15¾ after which it was withdrawn. By the close, prices in longs were below their best but still showed rises of up to £1, while in shorts the gains were restricted to around £¼. The money supply figures were as expected.

Leading industrials again remained neglected but prices closed mostly higher in line with the rest of the market. **Bowater** was an outstanding feature, ahead of figures next month, rising 9p to 213p as buyers came in for its oil and gas exploration interests in the United States. Other rises saw **ICI** up 2p at 236p, **Beechams** 1p to 170p, **Glaxo** 4p to 280p, **Unilever** 3p to 493p, **Fisons** 7p to 155p, **Distillers** 1p to 189p and **BOC International** 3p to 117p. **Lucas** reporting next week, was the one black spot, tumbling 5p to 166p.

Shares of **ICL** were suspended at 47p pending the announcement of a £200m loan arrangement.

Engineering shares again attracted enquiries on the back of GKN's recent figures. **GKN** itself, eased 1p to 137p on profit taking but sharp rises were seen in **Metal Box** 4p to 174p, **Tubes** 6p to 194p and **Hawker Siddeley** 8p to 290p.

Among the second string stocks, **Anderson Strathclyde** hardened 3½p to 87p after comment with **Bestobell** 4p higher at 362p, ahead of figures next week, and **Camford Engineering** 5p stronger at 24p. **Hall Engineering** rallied 14p to 170p after figures but halved profits clipped 5p from **Wolseley Hughes** at 228p and **Thomas Tilling** dipped 7p to 155p after comment on its recent figures.

Building shares also found further support with **Barratt Developments** up 10p to 240p and **Fairclough Construction** 2p higher at 97p both having reported earlier this week. **Hepworth Ceramic** ended 8p dearer at 113p, after figures, and with jobbers short of stock **BPB** leapt 16p to 265p. **Travis & Arnold** eased 2p to 168p after a recent bid denial and nervous selling stripped 5p from **Brown & Jackson** at 88p.

The renewed demand for leisure shares saw **Ladbroke** advance 11p to a high of 286p along with **Pleasurama** 8p to 213p, **Management Agency & Music** 8p to 198p and **De Vere** 10p to 228p. But **Epicure** eased 2½p to 28½p in late trading after its hotel disposal.

On the bid scene, **Grand Metropolitan** rose 5p to 182p in the wake of its bid for **Warner Holidays** where the ordinary picked up 3p to 130p and the "A" 1p to 103p. **Trusthouse Forte** also made ground, up 3p at 206p, still fighting to gain control of the **Savoy Hotels** where the "A" hardened 1p to 170p. **Elder Smith** was another firm spot, rising 17p to 195p as Mr Robert Holmes A'Court's Bell Group announced it had increased its stake to 50 per cent.

In banks, **Standard Chartered** recovered another 7p to 574p following its merger proposals for **Royal Bank of Scotland** 2p dearer at 132p while **Lloyds & Scottish**, currently the target of Lloyds Bank, edged ahead 2p to 199p. **Lloyds Bank** was 3p firmer at 318p. Elsewhere, **Midland**, reporting later today, increased 5p to 313p along with **Barclays** 2p to 390p, but **National Westminster** fell 1p to 355p.

Rumours of a bid in the offing for Commercial Union caused a flurry of activity in spite of an official denial from the company. **Commercial Union**, which goes ex div at the end of the month, rose 3p to 167p followed by **Royal Insurance** 5p at 388p, **General Accident** 12p at 340p, **GRE** 10p at 352p and **Sun Alliance** 2p at 814p.

Among the long list of companies reporting, satisfactory trading news added 1p to **A & J Mucklow**, 2½p to **Britannia Arrow** at 47p, 3p to **T. Clarke** at 24p, 10p to **Sale Tilney** at 180p, 2p to **Sharpe & Fisher** at 47p and 10p to **Steetley** at 181p. But the market was less than impressed with figures from **FW Thorpe** down 2p at 105p, **Wolseley Hughes** 5p lighter at 228p, **Hawley Leisure** 1p at 58p,

Clients of two brokers, Heseltine Moss and Pilling Trippier, are holding their Negretti & Zambra shares despite the fact that Western Scientific's 25p per share bid has won 81.5 per cent acceptance. The embarrassing problem for Western is that the shares are 28p in the market on the basis of a tip that a minority stake might be worth while. Heseltine, advising about 7 per cent, is thinking about it.

Talk of a 60p a share bid from the Far East sent shares of London & Overseas Freighters jumping 4½p to 42½p yesterday. Brokers Laurence Prust are said to be active buyers, and their extensive Far Eastern connexions add further support to the theory.

Equity turnover for March 18 was £155.523m (bargains 20,812). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Cadbury Schweppes, Lasmo, Hawley Leisure, Plessey, Liverpool Daily Post, Ladbroke, BPB, Commercial Union, Racal, Hepworth Ceramics, Pleasurama and Steetley.

Traditional options: Dealers reported increased activity yesterday. Calls were made in British Aerospace, Tanks, Rustenburg, Turner and Newall, Booker McConnell, Conex at a rate of 1½p, Keith Collins Per at 4p and Howard Machinery at 4½p.

Traded options: A total of 1,772 contracts were recorded yesterday. These included Racal with 26, Shell 10, Commercial Union 658, GEC 58, ICI 14, and Lasmo 13.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Boddingtons (F)	24.7(21.5)	5.3(4.0)	—(—)	1.6(1.33)	—	3.0(2.5)
Britannia Arrow (F)	—(—)	2.8(1.5)	3.2(1.6)	1.0(0.7)	—	1.0(0.7)
Cadbury Schwpps (F)	1,119(1,506)	61.3(57.3)	12.37(10.17)	2.9(2.9)	15/4	4.1(3.85)
Charterhouse Pet (F)	6.6(—)	5.3(—)	2.48(—)	0.5(—)	27/5	0.5(—)
Celtic Haven (I)	0.6(0.38)	0.07(0.16*)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
T. Clarke (F)	14.3(12.8)	0.53(0.47)	—(—)	1.12(—)	—	1.75(1.4)
Hall Eng (F)	102.19(97.68)	7.06 6.3)	—(—)	4.2(3.9)	8/5	7.61(7.0)
Hawley Leisure (F)	26.6(11.3)	1.2(0.5)	6.7(5.01)	1.0(0.5)	28/8	1.6(0.8)
Hepworth Cermcs (F)	263.2(272.2)	22.29(36.19)	10.2(20.9)	3.0(2.75)	1/7	5.25(5.)
Geo Ingham (F)	2.67(2.28)	0.07*(0.02)	3.6*(0.85)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Lex Service (F)	503.6(499.2)	12.8(22.8)	17.14(30.78)	4.2(4.2)	—	7.0(7.0)
L'pool Daily Post (F)	49.1(54.5)	1.56(4.1)	9.5(23.4)	6.04(6.04)	24/4	9.5(9.5)
Mercury Trans (F)	—(—)	0.32(0.67)	—(—)	51(62)	28/4	51(62)
Mucklow (I)	4.1(3.3)	1.8(1.7)	2.72(2.58)	1.88(0.79)	—	—(1.92)
Pressac Hldgs (I)	3.7(4.7)	0.11*(0.27)	1.2*(1.32)	0.35(0.5)	20/5	—(—)
Reliable (I)	—(—)	0.29(0.21)	—(—)	1.25(1.25)	7/5	—(—)
Sale Tilney (F)	64.3(66.2)	1.93(2.18)	30.8(38.7)	4(—)	3/6	7.5(6.75)
Sharpe & Fisher (F)	25.9(22.9)	1.39(1.51)	4.7(6.1)	1.25(—)	—	1.8(1.75)
Sec City (I)	7.36(8.45)	0.57(0.53)	—(—)	0.62(0.62)	11/5	—(—)
Steetley (F)	345.7(297.5)	18.2(23.5)	31.83(30.44)	6.5(6.5)	24/4	10.5(10.5)
F. W. Thorpe (I)	2.01(2.24)	0.27(0.4)	—(—)	1.0(1.0)	14/5	—(—)
Titaghur Jute (F)	36.2(21.4)	5.5(0.78*)	380.6(56.6*)	Nil(Nil)	—	Nil(Nil)
Tomatin (F)	10.74(15.18)	1.36*(0.01)	—(—)	0.1(2.75)	—	0.1(3.75)
Tricentrol (F)	276.5(209.2)	39.0(21.0)	27.7(20.9)	5.6(4.2)	—	8.4(7.0)
Williams & James (F)	7.15(7.2)	0.05*(0.45)	—(—)	1.25(—)	14/5	2.4(3.72)
Wolseley Hughes (I)	38.0(102.0)	3.43(7.69)	—(—)	4.4(4.4)	31/7	—(12.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * = loss.

Philips down as costs and competition take toll

By Our Financial Staff

Philips Lamps Holding, the Dutch electrical giant, maintained its final dividend at 1.20 florins despite a slump in consolidated net profit from 564m florins to 328m florins (£63.2m).

Earnings per share came to 1.92florins, well below the previous year's 3.29florins. But holding the final dividend means that the full payout is also maintained at 1.80florins.

Profit margins were severely squeezed as consolidated sales rose by 7 per cent to 36,536m florins. Operating profits were 1,577m florins compared with 1,796m florins, causing operating margins as a percentage of sales to fall from 5.4 to 4.3.

The results include extraordinary charges of 179m florins and 600m florins written off in restructuring costs. But Phillips also had tax benefits of 290m florins from the write off costs and another 131m florins from stock relief in Britain.

The restructuring costs were foreshadowed at the end of last year, when the company said that it would reorganize some of its manufacturing divisions. At the same time, Philips warned that much reduced profits in the first three quarters of the year would be reflected in the final figures.

Charterhouse Petroleum beats forecast

Charterhouse Petroleum has *exceeded the profits forecast* made last August when it was *floated on the Stock Exchange* by the Charterhouse group. Yesterday's results showed pretax profits of £5.3m for the six months to December, compared with the £4.85m forecast.

An interim dividend of 0.71p gross is recommended. The results included earned interest of £1.5m against a forecast £1.1m. Short-term deposits amounted to £23.9m.

Sales during the period were £6.6m but were affected by crude oil prices falling in terms of sterling and lower than forecast liftings from the Thistle Field. However, as a result of lower costs, the forecast operating profit of £3.9m was achieved.

Production at the Thistle Field has been affected by difficulties with water and gas injection equipment and this is likely to restrict the barrels lifted per day to 140,000.

Lex falls to £12.8m but steady payout aids shares

By Rosemary Unsworth

Lex Service Group's profits plunged last year from £22.8m to £12.8m despite a 4 per cent improvement in the number of Volvos registered.

While group sales increased slightly from £499m to £503m in 1980, the hotels-to-car distribution group headed by Mr Trevor Chinn, saw all its businesses hit by the recession and increased competition. Lex earns two thirds of its profits from Volvo for which it is the sole United Kingdom concessionaire. Margins here came under pressure as smaller cars became more popular than large ones.

During the year Lex sold three hotels, one each at Heathrow and Gatwick airports to EHC Penta Hotels for £2.5m cash and repayment of inter-company loans of £12m. The third hotel was in Chicago, and was sold for $2m.

The restructuring of Lex Vehicle Leasing in association with Lombard North Central also helped to reduce borrowings from £56m to £41m last year. Nevertheless, interest charges rose by a third from £6m to £8.2m.



Mr Trevor Chinn, chairman of Lex Service Group.

The final dividend has be[en] maintained at 6p gross, whi[ch] with the 4p interim payme[nt] holds the total at 10p. Th[e] decision not to cut the di[vi]dend helped the shares to clo[se] unchanged at 100p, and giv[e] a yield of 10 per cent.

Since the year end, Lex h[as] received the £8.2m procee[ds] from its sale of the 28 per ce[nt] stake in United Carriers, [a] road transport competitor. Th[e] deal showed a £4m profit f[or] Lex which bought the shares [in] 1978 and 1979 but failed to ga[in] boardroom representatio[n]. Recently Lex has sold [the] Whitehall Hotel in Housto[n] Texas for $4.75m.

The group's agreement wi[th] AB Volvo to import and di[s]tribute the cars and parts [in] the United Kingdom has bee[n] extended. It was previously f[or] five years to December 3[1] 1984 but it has now become [a] four-five year rolling contrac[t].

Briefly

Northern Foods is accepting Avana's all-share offer for Robertson Foods in respect of its 4.6 per cent stake in Robertson.

Tate and Lyle is to take over the running of Jamaica's eight government-owned sugar refineries. The agreement, which is for seven years, has been reached with the Jamaica National Sugar Corporation. It is in line with Tate's policy of developing its consultancy and services business. Tate is the only refiner in Britain of cane sugar, much of which comes from the West Indies. The agreement may also reflect the swing to the right in the Jamaican government.

Nelson David: Turnover for half-year to September 30, 1980, £4.38m (£4.95m). Pretax loss, £112,000 (against profit of £84,000 last year). Tax nil (same). No dividend (same).

James Walker Goldsmith & Silversmith: Turnover for half-year to October 31, 1980, £11.59m (£10.31m). Pretax profits, £570,000 (£1.32m). Interim payment unchanged.

Second City Properties: Turnover for half year to October 31, £7.36m (£8.45m). Pretax profit £569,000 (£533,000). Interim 0.6191p (same). Chairman is confident that final results will be satisfactory.

Pressac Holdings: Interim dividend cut from 0.71p gross (0.5p) but should trading position improve board hopes to maintain total of last full year. Turnover £3.74m (£4.75m) for half year to Jan 31. Pretax loss £112,000 (profit £276,000). Loss per share 1.2p (earnings 1.32p).

F. W. Thorpe: Turnover for half year to Dec 31 £2.01m (£2.23m). Pretax profit £274,000 (£400,000). Interim 1.0p (same). Board says export sales are being maintained, albeit at reduced margins due to keen international competition and high pound. Home market remains depressed and board cannot yet see any positive signs of an improvement.

Titaghur Jute Factory: No dividends on ordinary or preference shares (same). Turnover £36.23m (£21.48m). Pretax profit £5.48m (loss £784,000). Eps 380.6p (loss 56.6p).

George Ingham & Co (Holdings): Turnover for 1980, £2.67m (£2.28m). Pretax loss £72,000 (profit £19,000). Loss per share 3.6p (earnings 0.85p). No dividend.

Boddingtons bucks trend

Boddingtons' Breweries, the Manchester-based regional brewer, has bettered the national trend of falling beer sales and profits to show an increase in pretax profits from £4m to £5.3m in 1980.

Although national beer production fell, particularly in the second half of 1980, Boddington's raised its volume by 0.5 per cent and the free trade now takes one-fifth of sales volume. In value, sales rose by 15 per cent to £24.7m. A 20 per cent rise in the final dividend leaves the total up from 3.57p gross to 4.29p.

Mr Ewart Boddington, chairman, attributes the results to better productivity, the popularity of local beers, and lower prices than the competition. Trade in the first two months of 1981 is slightly ahead.

Liverpool Post group plunges

By Michael Prest

Last year's dispute with th[e] National Graphical Associatio[n] (NGA), lower advertisin[g] revenue, and the strong poun[d] caused the Liverpool Post [&] Echo group's 1980 pretax pr[o]fits to fall to £1.47m fro[m] £4.1m.

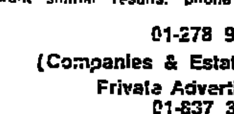
But the directors hope th[e] results will improve in th[e] current year and have mai[n]tained the final dividend [at] *8.63p gross, making 13.6p* gro[ss] for the year, also the sam[e]. The market reacted sharpl[y] pushing the shares up 25p [to] 115p.

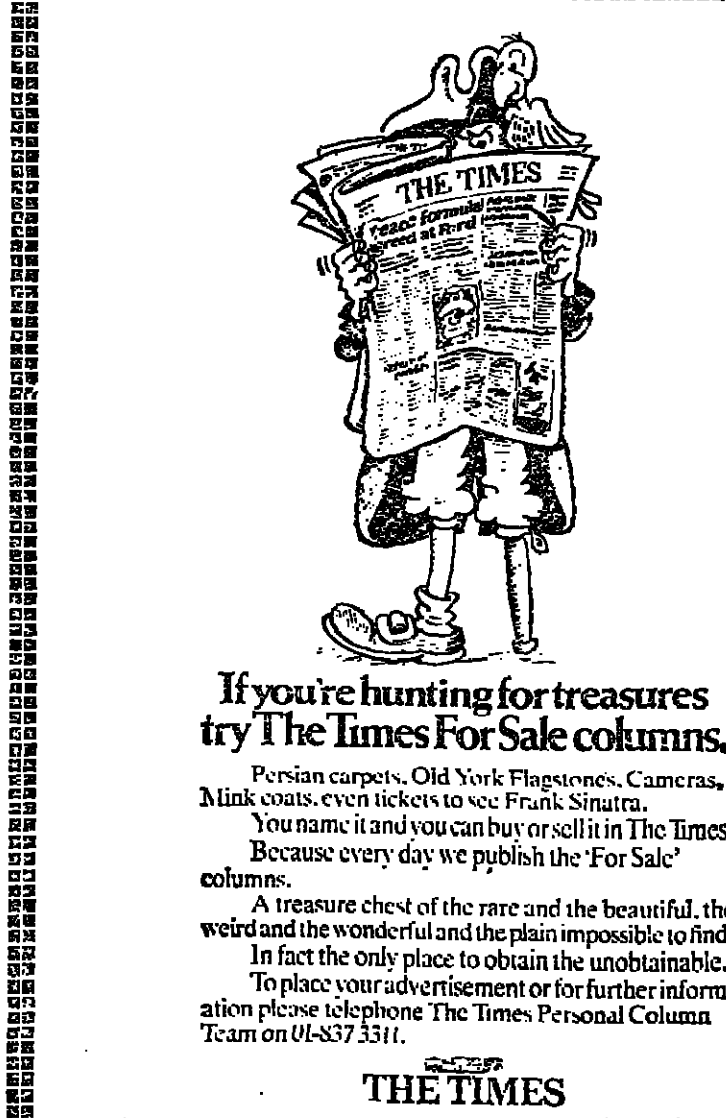
The dispute with the NG[A] which lasted for three wee[ks] on Merseyside, cost the grou[p] £1.3m. Retirements and redun[d]ancies cost a further £1.33[m] and goodwill written off af[ter] buying Panax Publishing [in] Chicago added another £1.13[m] to extraordinary items.

In the second half of la[st] year the Liverpool dailies lo[st] money, chiefly because of low advertising revenue and high wages. But the newspapers [in] British Columbia and Pittsbu[rgh] were profitable.

The paper and packagi[ng] division did well, despite low paper prices, and the group['s] three paper mills kept th[e] profit fall to 20 per cent.

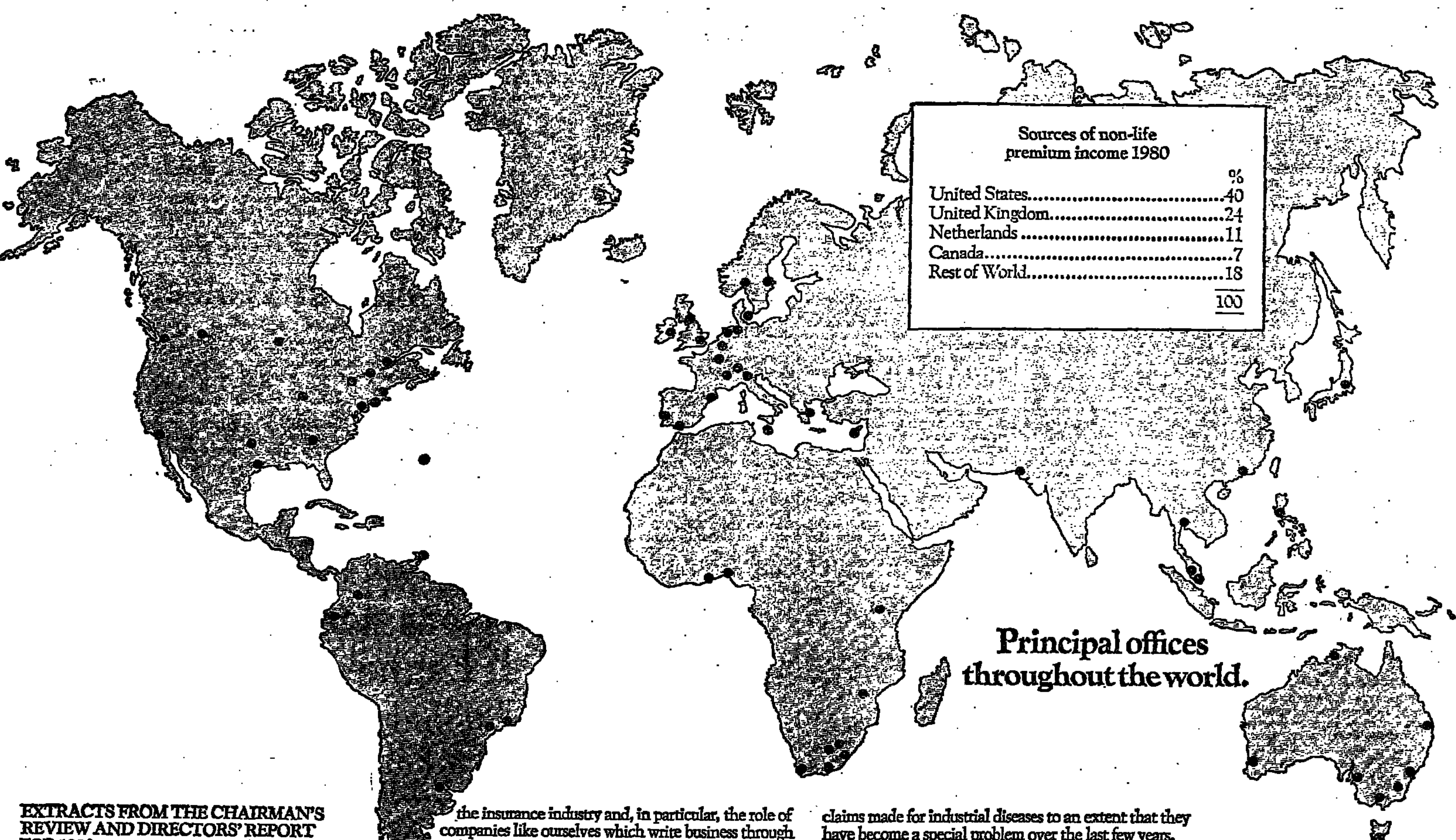
More company news, page 2[...]





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Commercial Union



EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW AND DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR 1980.

Summary

The profit attributable to shareholders for 1980 (after taxation and minorities) was £76.5m compared with £91.8m for 1979. Earnings per share declined to 18.61p from 22.34p in 1979. The reduction in profits and earnings per share was due largely to adverse trading conditions in North America and the severe effect of changes in rates of exchange.

Your directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 6.400p *(1979 5.800p)* per share which, with the interim dividend paid in November 1980, gives a total of 10.800p *(1979 9.800p)*. This represents an increase of 10.2% on the dividend paid in respect of the year ended 31 December 1979. The cost of total dividends for 1980, including preference dividends, will amount to £44.4m, leaving £32.1m to be transferred to retained profits and reserves.

World-wide non-life premium income in sterling terms showed only a small increase of 2%. However, there was an underlying growth of 17% after allowing for the effect of changes in rates of exchange, the sale of shares in former subsidiary companies in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Republic of Ireland, which have become associated companies, and other factors.

Our underlying rates of growth in premium income during the period 1976-1978, averaged about 6% per annum and were appreciably less than those of our competitors. This was because of the need to restrict growth in 1976-1977 in the light of our 1975 results and our low solvency margin at that time. In 1978 a policy of prudent growth was decided upon but it was not until 1979 that the effects of this policy first showed through with an underlying rate of growth of 12%, increasing to 17% in 1980.

Investment income in sterling terms, net of loan interest, was £142.8m *(1979 £141.0m)*, but after allowing for the effect of changes in rates of exchange, the sale of shares in former subsidiary companies mentioned above and other factors, the underlying increase was 15%.

There was a small reduction in the sterling amount of life profits which were £15.2m compared with £16.6m in 1979. However, after allowing for the effect of changes in rates of exchange and other factors, life profits showed an underlying rate of increase of 8.5% over 1979.

Non-life underwriting suffered a marked deterioration during 1980, with a loss of £57.3m compared with a loss of £21.3m in 1979. As expected, results deteriorated in the United States and particularly so in Canada. The underwriting results in the United Kingdom and parts of Western Europe were also worse but they improved in the Netherlands. Marine and aviation business written in the London market resulted in a release of £3.2m to the profit and loss account compared with £2.5m reported in 1979.

MAJOR TERRITORIES

United States

The underwriting loss rose to £31.8m from £8.3m in 1979. Investment income increased to £50.5m *(1979 £46.5m)*.

For most of the year the economy was in recession and inflation was running at a high level. Competition within the insurance industry was so intense that it seemed that little heed was being given to the longer term consequences. Market capacity has been well in excess of current needs and this, together with the availability of high interest rates, has encouraged relentless price cutting, especially in commercial business.

Despite these conditions, we achieved a growth in written premiums in local currency of over 15%. This growth was considerably higher than the average growth for the industry and although our statutory claims ratio to earned premiums deteriorated to 70.7% *(1979 69.4%)*, this modest increase was most satisfactory in the prevailing conditions. The commission and expense ratio to written premiums was 34.0% *(1979 33.1%)* and the statutory operating ratio 104.7% *(1979 102.5%)*. The expense ratios reflect the continuing implementation costs associated with our long term strategy referred to below which is designed to achieve a larger share of the market as well as greater profitability.

Our long term strategy is based upon a comprehensive assessment of the changing conditions in the insurance industry and, in particular, the role of companies like ourselves which write business through independent agents. We concluded some time ago that a fundamental change in our methods of operation, and in our relationships with the independent agents, was essential to protect the long term profitability of our business. The additional expenses involved in all aspects of the ensuing reorganisation represent, therefore, an investment to produce profitable growth in the future.

One of our principal objectives has been to secure a relationship with our independent agents based on mutual respect and increasing profitability. To this end, the products and services we have offered have been combined with broader authorities given to selected trained agents who have entered into contracts with the Company providing them with greater incentive and security.

Our objectives have been substantially achieved so far and although the underwriting prospects for the insurance industry in the immediate future are not encouraging, we have confidence in the effectiveness of our strategy for the longer term.

United Kingdom

There was a deterioration in underwriting experience in the UK during 1980 and a loss was made of £2.3m compared with a profit of £3.5m in 1979. Premium income increased by over 25%.

Trading conditions have been difficult. The practice of some companies to reduce rates substantially to protect their existing portfolios and to attract new business was a particularly adverse feature. Although the rate of inflation has been falling recently it remains a major problem for insurers. The severe economic recession has restricted real growth in the volume of available insurance business and underwriting capacity has exceeded requirements.

Although fire wastage during the year increased by 32% over 1979, competition for industrial fire and consequential loss business remained strong and the higher level of claims and exposure were not matched by increases in premiums. Nevertheless, in the absence of the poor weather conditions that affected 1979, our fire account produced a profit.

Employers' liability experience has deteriorated. Premium volume, which in this class is related to the wage bill of the insured, suffered as a result of the recession. There has been an increase in the number of claims made for industrial diseases to an extent that they have become a special problem over the last few years.

Motor premium income increased by over 30% during the year but the account produced a small underwriting loss.

Life profits in the UK increased to £7.8m *(1979 £7.1m)*. This increase reflects the triennial valuation at the end of 1979 of the closed Northern Non-Participating Life Fund.

Netherlands

The total result of our Netherlands subsidiary, Delta-Lloyd, was most satisfactory in 1980. The underwriting result showed a marked improvement, with a loss of £3.0m compared with £10.7m in 1979. Investment income was £18.1m *(1979 £20.7m)* and life profits were £6.9m *(1979 £8.2m)*. The depreciation of the guilder against sterling by 21% during the year has depressed these amounts for 1980 in sterling terms.

Canada

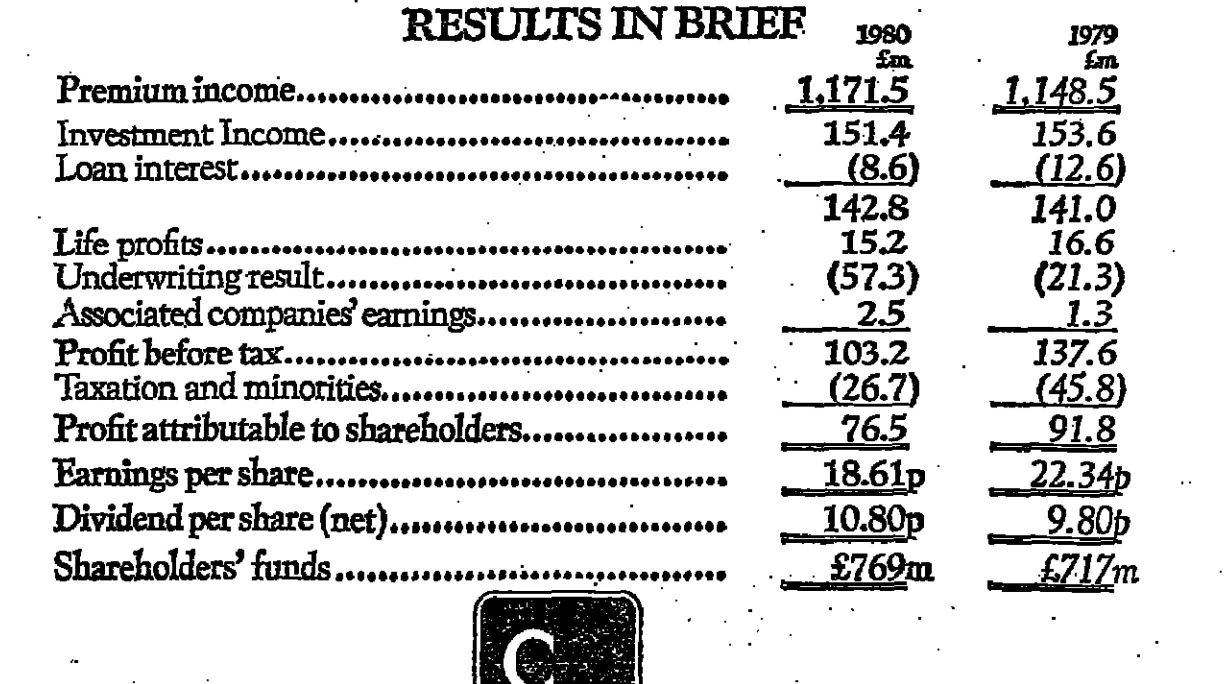
Underwriting experience was particularly poor in Canada which produced a loss of £11.9m *(1979 £0.4m profit)*. Investment income increased to £9.1m *(1979 £8.8m)*. Premium income in local currency increased by 16%.

There was a continuing effect during 1980 of the distortions in the market place caused by the past operations of the Anti-Inflation Board and intense competition and uncertainty prevailed throughout the year. In addition, increased reinsurance capacity and the attraction of high investment returns have encouraged the persistent use of wholly inadequate premium rates.

Australia and New Zealand

Integration of our business interests in Australia and New Zealand with those of the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited, became effective on 1 August 1980. We now have in each of these countries an associated company in which our effective interests are 45.9% and 49.2% respectively.

Trading conditions in both countries remained exceptionally difficult with unabated price competition. The underwriting loss in Australia for the first seven months of the year was £2.5m compared with a loss for the whole of 1979 of £2.3m. Investment income for the same period was £4.8m *(1979 £7.0m full year)*. In New Zealand the corresponding results were an underwriting loss of £0.5m *(1979 £0.5m)* and investment income of £1.0m *(1979 £1.2m)*.



RESULTS IN BRIEF

	1980 £m	*1979 £m*
Premium income	1,171.5	*1,148.5*
Investment Income	151.4	*153.6*
Loan interest	(8.6)	*(12.6)*
	142.8	*141.0*
Life profits	15.2	*16.6*
Underwriting result	(57.3)	*(21.3)*
Associated companies' earnings	2.5	*1.3*
Profit before tax	103.2	*137.6*
Taxation and minorities	(26.7)	*(45.8)*
Profit attributable to shareholders	**76.5**	***91.8***
Earnings per share	**18.61p**	***22.34p***
Dividend per share (net)	**10.80p**	***9.80p***
Shareholders' funds	**£769m**	***£717m***

FINANCIAL

Sterling continued to appreciate in 1980 against most other currencies and particularly against the European currencies. The effect of changes in rates of exchange reduced premium income by £97.2m, investment income less loan interest by £11.5m, profit attributable to shareholders by £7.4m and shareholders' funds by £74.8m.

Solvency

Net assets attributable to shareholders at 31 December 1980 amounted to £769m *(1979 £717m)* and the solvency margin (ie net assets expressed as a percentage of written premiums) was 66% *(1979 62%)*.

CONCLUSION

A year ago, I drew attention to the worsening trends in underwriting results which began in 1979 and were caused by a combination of increasing competition and inflation. Unhappily I was right then in suggesting that there were few signs of an early return to responsible market behaviour and, against a sombre background of continuing inflation, I believe that our results for the year are reasonably satisfactory.

In particular we did well in the United States to increase our premium income by over 15% and restrict the rise in our statutory claims ratio to 70.7% against 69.4% for the previous year, both of these being a better achievement than the market average.

While it is disappointing that our UK underwriting should have produced a small loss in 1980, this was in line with general market trends. However, there was a substantial increase in our premium income and we made good progress towards our objective of regaining a larger market share.

I am glad that we are able to record a marked improvement in the underwriting results in the Netherlands. In Canada there are now at least some signs of a change for the better in market conditions, though it will take some time for underwriting results to become satisfactory again.

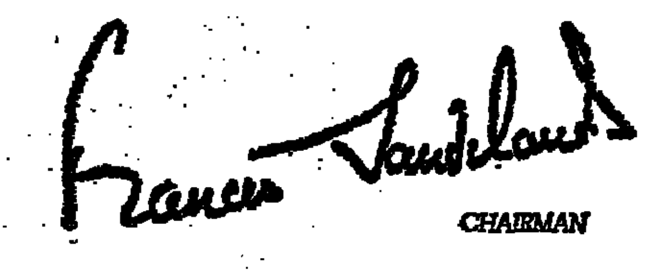
The insurance industry is a major contributor to the country's invisible earnings and we as a Company can be proud of our own share in this. In 1979, the last year for which detailed figures are available, the net contribution to the balance of payments from the invisible earnings of the private sector was not far short of £5 billion. Of this total the insurance companies and brokers and Lloyd's of London between them produced almost one-fifth. I have every confidence in the strength of the British insurance industry and its ability to continue to make a truly significant contribution to the balance of payments.

Our business has always been cyclical and the downturns have in the past usually resulted from an over-capacity in the market following periods of good underwriting results. The current downturn has been particularly severe due to the unusual combination of deep economic recession and high inflation rates world-wide. The insurance industry faces another difficult year in 1981 but, in my view, we shall see the first signs of an upturn in the underwriting cycle by the end of the year. Our strong balance sheet will enable us to take full advantage of improving underwriting conditions as they occur and we are continuing our efforts to expand our market share, more especially in the United Kingdom and the United States. In the United States we have invested a very substantial amount in the restructuring of our organisation which is now beginning to show a return through increased premium volume and a stable claims ratio. A gradual reduction in the expense ratio should follow over the next few years. Moreover, the substantial increase in premium income already achieved in these countries should, subject to movements in interest rates, be reflected in higher investment income.



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CHAIRMAN

Steetley falls 22pc despite boost from overseas

By Rosemary Unsworth

Overseas earnings leapt forward last year at Steetley, the mineral, chemical and ceramic group which serves the construction and steel industries, as the United Kingdom recession deepened.

While turnover for 1980 climbed by 16 per cent from £297.5m to £345.7m pretax profits fell by 22 per cent from £23.5m to £18.2m, including the first full-year contribution from Gibbons Dudley.

The dividend total is held at 15p. This is covered 2.5 times on a historic basis. After the announcement the shares gained 8p to 179p, putting the yield at 8.4 per cent.

Trading profit remained static at £36.4m, but the group's interest charges almost doubled from £3.9m to £6.9m although borrowings fell by £4.7m to £55m. The main reason for the increased charges was the £30m acquisition of Gibbons Dudley and two investments in Ohio.

However, the United Kingdom tax charge dipped from £3.35m to £720,000 because of first-year allowances and the new stock relief regulations.

Overseas profits rose by 9 per cent and now represent 37 per cent of operating profit. The French contribution doubled during the period to about £1m and North America performed well. Distribution activities in Canada's western states benefited from the area's rapid development, while results from Australia were at a similar level to last year's, although exchange losses on consolidation of overseas profits cost the group £594,000.

In the United Kingdom the construction side of the business, which is now the most important contributor, was badly hit by both the recession and the cuts in public expenditure. The main burden of these fell on the private sector, said Lord Boardman, the chairman.

Cement-Roadstone in new US acquisition

Cement-Roadstone Holdings, a leading Irish building materials group with major interests in the UK and overseas, has acquired, through its US subsidiary, the Concrete Conduit Company Inc. for $12m (£5.28m).

The purchase was financed by a placing of 7.75m shares.

Concrete Conduit, with sales in 1980 of $20.2m and pretax profits of $2.1m, is a leading producer in four states of precast concrete vaults for power and telephone companies. Other products include prestressed concrete power poles, highway barriers and cattleguards.

Cement-Roadstone's existing US operations are in the energy-rich mountain states. The addition of Concrete Conduit increases to 16 the number of manufacturing plants, located in the high-growth states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona.

Celtic Haven turns interim loss into profit

With turnover rising from £390,000 to £601,000 in the six months to September 30, Celtic Haven has turned a loss of £160,000 into a pretax profit of £78,000.

Following the sale of the farms, the group's borrowing was repaid in August 1980. The elimination of bank interest will assist the second half.

The board hopes to report to shareholders on other discussions concerning the company's future within the next few months.

Sharpe & Fisher's poor second half

Sharpe and Fisher, the builders' merchants, DIY and garden supermarkets group, saw pretax profits fall by a fifth in the second half of 1980.

However, as the first six months' figures were higher, the decline for the year is only 7.9 per cent to £1.39m, compared with 1979's record £1.51m.

Denbyware puts case for rejecting Crown

Mr George Robinson, chairman of Denbyware—advised by Minster Trust—says in a letter to shareholders that board strongly and unanimously recommends them to reject the Crown House offer. The directors have no intention of accepting it, nor does Minster Group.

He says that the group's asset value per share at book value is 99p, some 24 per cent above the offer price. The freehold properties have been recently valued at £4.62m, an excess of £3.27m over book value. This makes asset value 175p per share.

Reorganization at Clark & Morland

Mr J. P. G. Morland, the chairman of Clark, Son and Morland, the unquoted company manufacturing sheepskin products, reports that at the beginning of January it became clear that the loss for the year to February 28, 1981, would be "very substantial". So the board commissioned a report by an independent firm of accountants, Spicer and Pegler, on steps to be taken to restore profitability. The report's recommendations have been accepted by the board. One recommendation is to close down and dispose of the premises at Yeovil and this is going ahead.

Rights issue by W E Norton

The board of W. E. Norton (Holdings), the machine tool merchants, is planning a rights issue. It will raise about £705,000 (net) by the issue of 780,000 new 11 per cent convertible cumulative preference shares of £1 each, 1996-2001. Terms: one preference for every 27 ordinary shares at par.

For the year to March 31, 1981, the board forecasts a pretax loss of "not more than" £975,000, after interest payable of £540,000, compared with a pretax loss of £247,000 for 1979-80.

Morgan Grenfell jumps 43pc to £7.2m

By Ronald Pullen

Better conditions all round have resulted in Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading merchant banks, raising profits 43 per cent to £7.2m for 1980, after tax and transfer to inner reserves. The dividend to shareholders — Morgan Guaranty Trust of the United States, insurance brokers Willis Faber and a clutch of United Kingdom institutions—goes up a third to 6.7p a share gross.

The figures have been struck after a release of deferred taxation to inner reserves because of the earlier over-conservative treatment. The scale of this shows up in restated profits for last year, which have increased from £4.4m to £5m.

The bank has also brought more of its inner reserves into the open to bring issued share capital more into line with capital employed. There is to be a one-for-one script and a £7.5m transfer to published reserves, which raises disclosed shareholders' funds from £45.5m to £58.8m.

Mr William Mackworth-Young, vice-chairman, says that the Bank of England's liquidity proposals makes it necessary to put more of the bank's resources into the "shop window", and admits that he would be prepared to disclose more if the rest of the accepting houses would agree.

Lord Catto, Morgan Grenfell's chairman, attributes the success of the past year to the international development of the past twelve years.

Export finance has been especially strong, following the concession two years ago that merchant banks could fund, as well as negotiate, credits. Loans under the ECGD scheme have more than doubled to £109m and are expected to double again in the next year.

Elsewhere, the Eurocurrency side has done well—both bonds and syndicated credits.

Hepworth Ceramic raises dividend

By Peter Wainwright

Hepworth Ceramic does not believe *that cut dividends* should follow enforced redundancies. Last year it made a quarter of its workers redundant and pretax profits plunged from £36.17m to £22.29m. But up goes the gross dividend from 7.13p to 7.50p despite more than halved earnings per share of 10.2p. The fall in current cost earnings was from 9.3p to 2.9p.

Relieved dealers lifted the shares 6p to 111p yesterday. So shareholders have not lost out on the autumn, 1979 rights issue of new shares at 93p when the existing ones were 100p. This issue raised £29m.

Last year the group, headed by Mr Peter Goodall, decided that the time had come for Hepworth Ceramic to contract, along with its markets. The hope is that break-even points in every division have been brought down even more steeply than revenue. In volume terms the group found a decline of 30 per cent in every division except steel, where the slump was 50 per cent. In some areas like refractories it has 56 per cent of the market, and the board's hope it to bring about some price stability.

The background to contraction was the lowest number of housing starts seen since 1914, a slump in construction, and a bad time for the automotive industry. The steel industry itself is pulling down output from 26m tons in 1979 to just over 11m tons.

In 1980 turnover fell from £272.24m to £263.21m and pretax profits from £36.17m to £22.29m. Before striking the latest profit the group deducted more than £3m in redundancy costs, but the bulk of closure costs totalled £6m (after tax relief). These appear as extraordinary items as a deduction from net profits.

Thanks partly to the timely cash call, and good housekeeping, the group ended the year with net cash balances of £19m against £33m the year before.



Mr Peter Goodall, chairman, Hepworth Ceramic Holdings.

Hawley Leisure tops £1m

By Philip Robinson

Hawley Leisure, the United Kingdom's largest distributor of coin-operated amusement machines such as Space Invaders, yesterday reported more than doubled profits and a 100 per cent dividend increase.

The group, which three years ago was making losses, reported profits for the year to December up from £520,000 to £1.2m on a turnover up from £11.3m to £26.59m. The gross total dividend is lifted from 1.142p to 2.285p with a 1.428p final. The shares rose to 60p before easing back to close a penny down on the day at 58p.

Hawley, around 16 per cent owned by one of Mr Michael Ashcroft's other quoted companies, Provincial, has made six acquisitions this year and raised £3.2m of new cash. Much of the increased profit has come from the amusement machines side, which was expanded last April with the £1m purchase of London-based Cherry Leisure. However, Mr Ashcroft says there was also growth in its leisure goods

The group's interest charge increased from £292,000 to £814,000, but money from the two cash-raising exercises has reduced gearing to around 55 per cent.

Interim slide at Wolseley-Hughes

By Margareta Pagano

Lower consumer and industrial spending more than halved pretax profits from Wolseley-Hughes, the central heating systems specialists.

Pretax profits slid from £7.69m to £3.43m in the six months to January 31 on sales which were down by some 20 per cent to £88.04m. The interim gross dividend is maintained at 6.28p. But Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said that a maintained final dividend would depend on trading over the next few months. The gross total dividend paid last year was 17.8p. The share price dropped 5p to 228p.

The group, which also manufactures agricultural equipment, engineering, plastics, footwear and other products, traded at a record level in the year to last July with a 22 per cent rise in pretax profits to £15m. However, trading conditions since last May have gradually deteriorated with demand from the group's divisions overall down by about 20 per cent.

On the manufacturing side, order books had been lower by some 35 per cent compared with this time last year, said Mr Lancaster, and there had been no signs of any improvement in recent trading.

Short-time working continues at particular plants. Since last January 800 employees ha[ve] been made redundant. Wolsel[ey] now employs 4,500 staff an[d] further rationalizations are n[ot] ruled out. "We have in fa[ct] been rationalizing over the la[st] four to five years otherwise w[e] would not have been so buoyan[t] in the last year," Mr Lancaste[r] said.

Borrowings, which at the en[d] of last year were £4.62m, have not been increased, giving the group a low gearing ratio [of] 13.5 per cent. Interest charge[s] in this half year were lower a[t] £425,000, against £1.09m la[st] time, and tax took £1.78m com-pared with £4m. This leaves re-tained profits at £1.62m again[st] £3.66m.

Overseas side lifts Hall Engineering

By Margareta Pagano

Improved profits from Hall Engineering's overseas subsidiaries have compensated for the United Kingdom downturn lifting pretax profits by 11 per cent to £7m in the year to December against £6.3m last time.

Sales were £102.19m compared with £97.68m. The final gross dividend has been raised to 6p, making a total dividend for the year of 10.8p gross against 10p last year. The share price rose 14p to 170p.

Mr Richard Hall, chairman, said yesterday that conditions in 1981 could be worse than those of last year, particularly in the steel reinforcement and design divisions. Results from the United Kingdom would depend on improvements from overseas trading compensating for the expected depression but should not fall short of last year's level.

In 1979 trading in South Africa contributed £1.8m to profits, £4.4m came from the United Kingdom divisions, and the remainder came from the Middle East.

The steel strike boosted trade with the group supplying many of British Steel Corporation's customers. Trading continued satisfactorily until August when orders began to slip and in the last quarter the slump was felt throughout the group. Short-time working was introduced and continues, and there have been a few redundancies. No further rationalizations are expected.

Tax charges took £1.1m against £2.2m and after an extraordinary credit of £52,000, attributable profits are £5.9m against £4.5m.

Business appointments

Changes at Inchcape

Lord Inchcape, chairman of Inchcape & Co, will also become chief executive upon the retirement of Sir Michael Parsons. Mr *H. P. Foxon becomes group* managing director in addition to his office of deputy chief executive. Sir Eric Norris, a director, is made a non-executive deputy chairman. Mr P. J. S. Lumsden joins the board and will become finance director on May 1 in succession to Mr T. Hughes. Mr G. Holdsworth, a director, is made an executive director.

Mr Donald Kirkham is the new deputy chief general manager of the **Woolwich Equitable Building Society**. He is succeeded as general manager (operations) by Mr Peter Robinson, previously assistant general manager (development). Mr Michael Tuke has been promoted to assistant general manager (finance) but retains his post as secretary of the Society.

Mr Peter Hurst has been made senior regional manager and deputy to the senior international executive at National Westminster Bank's Africa and Middle East regional office within the International Banking Division.

Dr A. Passardi, senior vice-president of **Handelsbank NW Zurich** (a subsidiary of National Westminster Bank) has been made a member of the management committee.

Mr R. J. Starkey, joint managing director, is to take over as managing director and chief executive of **Homfray and Co.**

Mr J. A. Ferguson-Davie is now sales director of **Samuel Bickett.**

Mr A. R. White has joined the board of **Halcrow (Offshore)**, an affiliate of Sir William Halcrow & Partners.

Mr Peter Usher has joined the board of **Atcost Holdings.**

Mr David K. Grimes has been elected a director of **Copydex.**

Mr J. W. van der Velden has joined the board of **Morgan Grenfell & Company.**

Mr R. E. Stedman, Mr E. H. Carter, Mr J. R. Rose and Mr G. Powell, of J. H. Minet & Company, will join the board of **E. Harding & Company.**

Mr Brian Gilbert has been made director of claims, **Excess Insurance Group**. Mr Peter Mills becomes group manager UK claims, and Mr Peter Thompson group manager international and reinsurance claims.

Mr John S. Brown has joined the board of **North West Securities**, the finance house subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland.

International

Outlook bleak at Siemens

Siemens' turnover rose 5 p[er] cent in the first five months [of] the year to September 19[81], Herr Karl Heinz Kaske, cha[ir]man of the board of manag[e]ment, said yesterday in We[st] Berlin.

This stagnant turnover w[ould] result in short-time working [in] some areas, with some perm[a]nent lay-offs.

Herr Kaske said profit m[ar]gins were threatened by [in]creasing costs and competiti[on]. Greater efforts would be [re]quired if 1980-81 net prof[its] were to reach the 1979-80 le[vel] of 487m Deutsche ma[rks] (£105.4m).

Meanwhile, Siemens was c[on]tinuing discussions with Gr[un]dig over possible participati[on] in the company, Herr Kas[ke] told the annual shareholde[rs] meeting.

However, a Siemens spok[es]man said from Munich that t[he] talks were only intermitte[nt] and that nothing concrete h[ad] yet arisen. Siemens first sa[id] it was discussing possible p[ar]ticipation with Grundig [in] March 1980. Philips Gloeila[m]pen-Fabrieken, which has [a] minority indirect stake in Gru[n]dig, has expressed opposition [to] the proposal.

£67m loss at GM-H

General Motors - Hold[en's] (GM-H), Australia's large[st] vehicle manufacturer, report[ed] a loss for 1980 of $A129.[...] (£67.6m) against a profit [of] $4.6m in 1979, on sales [of] $991.2m against $1,090m.

Mr Charles Chapman, mana[g]ing director, said that the fa[c]tors contributing to the lo[ss] were the trimming of t[he] Holden range by dropping fo[ur] models, the cost of closing t[he] Pagewood, Sydney plant, inclu[d]ing termination benefits a[nd] early retirement scheme, a[nd] the write-off of deferred t[ax] assets.

As in 1979, the company pa[id] no dividend to its paren[t] General Motors.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of money stock seasonally adjusted at the mid-month dates.

	M1 £000m	Sterling M3 £000m	Private sector liquidity
1980			
Feb	27.3	56.6	107.0
March	27.6	56.9	103.0
April	27.5	57.1	108.8
May	27.6	58.3	110.9
June	28.6	58.7	111.6
July	28.2	61.7	113.3
Aug	28.3	63.5	115.3
Sept	28.5	63.8	115.7
Oct	28.7	65.0	117.5
Nov	28.8	68.3	119.6
Dec	29.3	66.7	120.4
1981			
Jan	29.3	67.1	122.3
Feb	29.5	67.8	123.1

MONTHLY CHANGE IN STERLING M3 AND DOMESTIC CREDIT EXPANSION

	Domestic credit expansion	External finance	Non-deposit liabilities	Sterling M3
1980				
Feb	+270	−57	+117	+330
March	+717	−231	−184	+302
April	+701	−342	−143	+216
May	+1,149	+246	−146	+1,249
June	+1,369	−843	−79	+447
July	+3,469	−209	−306	+2,954
Aug	+2,039	−120	−109	+1,810
Sept	+1,003	−563	−94	+346
Oct	+1,186	+303	−254	+1,235
Nov	1,450	−195	+102	+1,357
Dec	+869	−337	−161	+371
Jan	+634	−261	+66	+439
Feb	+575	+155	−100	+630

CAPITAL SPENDING

The following are the figures published yesterday by the Department of Industry for the fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing, distributing and service for the increase in the value of stocks all seasonally adjusted at 1975 prices.

	£m Investment Total	Mfg.	£m Change in Stocks
1978	8002	3773	648
1979	9645	3873	765
1980	9647	3515	−2,050
1978 Q1	2242	918	147
Q2	2261	960	177
Q3	2241	942	156
Q4	2258	953	168
1979 Q1	2315	964	48
Q2	2476	962	367
Q3	2416	969	226
Q4	2438	977	125
1980 Q1	2455	945	−667
Q2	2433	898	−176
Q3	2388	871	−363
Q4	2372	802	−824

Britannia Arrow rises by 87pc

By Our Financial Staff

Britannia Arrow Holdings, the remains of the former Slater Walker empire, yesterday reported pretax profits up by 87 per cent to £2.8m in the year to December.

The board is paying a dividend for the year of 1.42p gross against the 1p gross interim dividend last year. But the financial services group will resume paying two dividends a year from this year. The share price rose 2½p to 47p on the news.

Sales were higher at £24.64m compared with £14.16m. After an extraordinary item of £5.48m credit, net profits were pushed to £8.1m compared with £3.5m last year.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9%, up to £50,000 9½%, over £50,000 10½%.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980-81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	63	−1	6.7	10.6	5.7
50	21	Armitage & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	2.8	20.6
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	95	+1	5.5	5.8	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	107	—	6.4	6.0	3.4
110	39	Frederick Parker	44	+2	1.7	3.9	16.3
110	73	George Blair	73	−1	3.1	4.2	—
110	59	Jackson Group	106	−1	6.9	6.5	4.0
124	103	James Burrough	118	+1	7.9	6.7	9.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	325	+1	31.3	9.6	—
55	50	Scruttons 'A'	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
224	215	Torday Limited	215	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	10	−¼	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	46	−1	3.0	6.5	7.1
103	81	Walter Alexander	100	+1	5.7	5.7	5.5
263	181	W. S. Yeates	260	−1	12.1	4.7	4.2

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MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER bars were steady; cathodes steady, quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £825.50-26.00 a metric ton; three months, £845-46.00. Sales 7,150. Cash cathodes, £820-21.00; three months, £834-35.00. Sales, 700 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £826-27.00; three months, £844.50-45.00. Settlement, £827.00. Sales, 9,550 tons. Cash cathodes, £819.50-20.00; three months, £833.50-34.00. Settlement, £820.00. Sales 900 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin was quiet; high grade idle.—Afternoon.—Standard, cash, £6,130-50 a tonne; three months, £6,200.05. Sales, 650 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,130.50; three months, £6,200.05. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash, £6,120.50; three months, £6,200.05. Settlement, £6,130. Sales 805 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,120.50; three months, £6,200.05. Settlement £6,130. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works rose by 72 cents yesterday to 21.15 ringgit per kilo. LEAD was quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £323.50-24.50 per tonne; three months, £320.50-21.00 [illegible] tonnes. Morning.—Cash [illegible]; three months [illegible]. Settlement, £323.50. Sales, 3,125 tonnes.

ZINC was quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £531.25-31.00 per tonne; three months, £549.25-50.00 [illegible] 1,350 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £540.50-41.50; three months, £550.50-51.00. Settlement, £541.50. Sales, 2,150 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £227.55 ($519.00) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steadier at the close.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 561.00p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1278.00); three months, 580.20p (1,340.20c); six months, 604.50p (1,387.00c); one year, 640.00p (1,479.20c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 571-72.0p; three months 587.5-89.0p. Sales, 30 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 562-70.0p; three months, 581.5-83.0p. Settlement, 70.0p. Sales, 102 lots.

ALUMINIUM was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £637.5-35.00 per tonne; three months, £650-51.00. Sales, 2,850 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £632-33.00; three months, £652.50-53.50. Settlement, £634.00. Sales, 3,000 tonnes.

NICKEL was quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2770-75 per tonne; three months, £2755-60. Sales, six tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2777-78; three months, [illegible]. Settlement, £2778. Sales, 11 tonnes.

RUBBER was slightly steadier yesterday (pence per kilo).—April, 56.50-[illegible]; May, 58.00-58.50; April-June, 59.00-59.50; July-Sept, 62.10-62.20; Oct-Dec, 65.20-65.30; Jan-March, 67.50-68.50; April-June, 70.90-71.10; July-Sept, 72.70-73.00; Oct-Dec, 75.70-76.00. Sales: 491 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet. [illegible] per kilo: Spot, 56.25-57.50; April, 60.00-60.50; May, 60.75-[illegible].

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): March, 1,020-22; May, 1,037-38; July, 1,048-49; Sept, 1,054-55; Nov, 1,055-58; Jan, 1,064-68; March, 1,065-67. Sales: 8,146 lots, including [illegible] options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.15): April, 143.00-44.50; June, 140.00-45.00; August, 140.00-47.00; Oct, 138.00-[illegible].00; Dec, 139.00-42.00; Feb, 135.00-40.00; April, 135.00-39.00. Sales, nil.

COCOA was steady (£ per metric ton): March, 871-873; May, 857-58; July, [illegible]; Sept, 906-97; Dec, 1,012-19; March, 1,040-41; May, 1,057-59. Sales, 5,397 lots, including one option.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £2.00 lower at £241; the "whites" price was unchanged at £273. Futures (£ per tonne): May, 243.60-43.65; Aug, 233.25-[illegible].50; Oct, 233.25-35.50; Jan, 220.00-[illegible].25; March, 219.50-20.00; May, 220.50-20.70; Aug, 220.00-21.00. Trading tone: Steady. Sales: 6,415. ISA prices (March 18): daily, [illegible]; 15-day average, 21.84c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was barely steady (£ per tonne).—April, 123.90-24.00; June, 125.40-25.70; Aug, 128.00-[illegible]; Oct, 130.00-31.00; Dec, [illegible].00-32.00; Feb, 132.00-37.00; April, 132.00-37.00. Sales, 105 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract (pence per kilo) (quiet): March, [illegible]; May, 350-355; Aug, [illegible]; Oct, 367-368; Dec, 373-377; Jan, 376-383; March, 380-385; May, 385-[illegible]; Aug, 385-387. Sales: 10 lots.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian Western red spring, unquoted. US dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: unquoted. US hard winter, 13½ per cent: March, £102.00; April, £101.50; May, £101.25 trans-shipment east coast. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob, May, £117.00; June, £114.00 east coast.

MAIZE.—US/French: March-April, £130.50 trans-shipment east coast. S African white, unquoted. S African yellow: March-April, £87.00.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob April, £104.50 seller; May £105.25 paid east coast. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta): EEC origin.—BARLEY was easier yesterday.—March, £98.50; May, £100.60; Sept, £94.30; Nov, £97.80; Jan, £101.55. Sales: 109 lots. WHEAT was easier.—March, £111.65; May, £115.45; July, £116.85; Sept, £99.35; Nov, £103.00; Jan, £106.85. Sales: 118 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
S. East	—	£107.40	£98.50
S. West	£112.00	—	£98.40
W. Midlands	—	—	£97.80
N. West	£114.60	£111.40	£97.30

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 17.—GB: Cattle, 88.96p per kg lw (+1.10). UK: Sheep, 171.19p per kg est DCW (+3.04). GB: Pigs, 71.63p per kg lw (−1.57). England and Wales: Cattle nos, up 7.2 per cent, ave price, 87.17p (+0.80). Sheep nos, up 5.0 per cent, ave price, 174.81p (+6.90). Pig nos, up 1.4 per cent, ave price, 71.85p (−1.57). Scotland: Cattle nos, down 1.9 per cent, ave price, 98.25p (+2.28). Sheep nos, up 53.0 per cent, ave price, 161.65p (−7.40).

POTATOES (Gafta).—April, £56.30; Nov, £56.70; Feb, £65.50. Sales: 197 lots (of 40 tonnes each).

Brazil not to join tin agreement

Brazil does not intend to join the new International Tin Agreement and is attending current negotiations in Geneva only as an observer, the Brazilian Minister of Mines, Mr Cesar Cals said yesterday.

He told a press conference in London that the purpose of Brazil's representation in Geneva is to discuss tin policy at the conference in order to provide guidance to Brazilian producers.

The present agreement, to which Brazil does not belong, is due to expire at the end of June, 1982.

Coffee closes steady

In London yesterday, Robusta futures closed £9.00 to £22.00 per tonne higher, with profit-taking paring earlier gains based on unconfirmed reports of Pancafe sales to coffee roasters in the United States. Dealers interpreted the sales as bullish, although they felt roaster interest on the physicals side might be inhibited in coming weeks.

Others said the sales, by lifting the threat of Pancafe tenders against the New York "C" contract, could encourage trading activity.

Discount market

Discount houses were mostly unable to make much progress yesterday morning, their rates stuck at 12 per cent compared with the 12¼-½ per cent that ruled for much of the session in the interbank market. As the authorities gave assistance in the afternoon, however, the situation eased a little and closing balances were taken within 11½-¾ per cent. The Bank of England gave large-scale help.

Foreign exchange report

Interest rates continued to be the key to currency movements yesterday. The dollar fell again as Eurodollars eased further and as Irving Trust cut its broker loan-rate for the third time this week, although closing levels were an improvement on those registered in New York overnight.

Sterling, meanwhile, suffered a temporary hiccough as the Continent started talking MLR down again. The pound climbed to about $2.2900 to the dollar at one stage, but was some 75 points lower on balance by 12.30 pm, just before the announcement that MLR is to stay at 12 per cent.

Sterling closed 20 points up on the day at $2.2815, while the "effective" exchange rate recovered to its overnight level of 100.2, after 99.9 at noon and 100.4 at the opening.

Continental currencies moved up smartly at the outset, came back a shade on profit-taking, and held steady for the rest of the session.

German marks were finally up from 2.0560 to 2.0492, Swiss francs gained from 1.8690 to 1.8680, and French francs strengthened from 4.8560 to 4.8345.



Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) March 19	Market rates (close) March 19	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.2675-2925	$2.2810-2820	.22-.32c disc	.75-.85c disc
Montreal	$2.6830-7075	$2.6970-6980	.85-.95c disc	2.10-2.25c disc
Amsterdam	5.13-20fl	5.17¼-18¼fl	1¼-¼c prem	3-2c prem
Brussels	76.00-90f	76.50-60f	2-12c disc	10-20c disc
Copenhagen	14.59-71k	14.69½-70½k	180-255ore disc	490-675ore disc
Dublin	1.2700-2840p	1.2780-2795p	5-25p disc	35-55p disc
Frankfurt	4.64-69m	4.67-68m	¼pf prem-¼pf disc	1½-½pf prem
Lisbon	126.00-127.75e	126.65-85e	10c prem-5c disc	15c prem-160c disc
Madrid	188.50-190.75p	189.25-45p	15-60c disc	105-150c disc
Milan	2267-92lr	2278½-80½lr	9¾-11¾lr disc	30½-33½lr disc
Oslo	11.99-12.11k	12.08½-09½k	160-30ore prem	385-240ore prem
Paris	10.95-11.06f	11.02-03f	1½-½c prem	1c prem-par
Stockholm	10.24-33k	10.29½-30½k	420-500ore disc	1225-1315ore disc
Tokyo	470-78y	476-77y	2.20-1.70y prem	5.95-5.40y prem
Vienna	32.80-33.15sch	33.02-07sch	5-1gro prem	11-1gro prem
Zurich	4.21-27f	4.25¾-26¾f	2¼-1¼c prem	5⅛-4⅝c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975 was 100.2, unchanged.

Other Markets

Australia	1.9340-1.9490
Bahrein	0.8555-0.8585
Finland	9.0760-9.1060
Greece	112.00-114.00
Hongkong	11.9140-11.9640
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6195-0.6225
Malaysia	5.1115-5.1415
Mexico	53.05-53.55
New Zealand	2.4415-2.4615
Saudi Arabia	7.5970-7.6270
Singapore	4.7275-4.7575
South Africa	1.7750-1.7900

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	100.2	−26.7
US dollar	98.3	−5.5
Canadian dollar	85.5	−17.6
Schilling	117.7	+22.9
Belgian franc	108.7	+9.7
Danish kroner	90.9	−9.7
Deutsche mark	122.1	+40.8
Swiss franc	137.1	+76.9
Guilder	113.5	+16.3
French franc	87.7	−9.2
Lira	61.5	−53.8
Yen	143.5	+40.4

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.7870-1.7900
+ Canada	1.1814-1.1817
Netherlands	2.2630-2.2640
Belgium	33.53-33.56
Denmark	6.4375-6.4425
West Germany	2.0485-2.0500
Portugal	55.50-55.65
Spain	83.00-83.10
Italy	999-1000
Norway	5.2975-5.3050
France	4.8330-48360
Sweden	4.5125-4.5200
Japan	208.75-208.95
Austria	14.47-14.49
Switzerland	1.8670-1.8690

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
+ Canada $1 : US $0.8463-0.8466

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 12%

(Last changed 10/3/81)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 12%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 12 Low 10½

Week Fixed: 12

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	11⅝	2 months	11⅝
3 months	11⅝	3 months	11¹⁷⁄₃₂

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	11⅞-11¾	3 months	12⁷⁄₁₆
3 months	11¾-11⅝	4 months	12⅛
4 months	11¹¹⁄₁₆-11⁹⁄₁₆	6 months	11⅞
6 months	11½-11¼		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	13½-13⅛	7 months	12¾-12½
2 months	13⅛-13¼	8 months	12⅞-12¾
3 months	13-12¾	9 months	12⅞-12¾
4 months	12¾-12½	10 months	12⅞-12⅝
5 months	12¾-12½	11 months	12⅞-12⅝
6 months	12⅝-12⅜	12 months	12⅝-12⅜

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	12¹¹⁄₁₆-12½	6 months	12¹⁄₁₆-11¹⁵⁄₁₆
3 months	12⁹⁄₁₆-12⁷⁄₁₆	12 months	11¹⁵⁄₁₆-11¹³⁄₁₆

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	12¾-12½	3 months	12⅝
7 days	12¾-12⅝	6 months	12½
1 month	12⅝	1 year	12⅜

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 12½-12¼ Close 12

1 week	12½-12¼	6 months	12½-12⁵⁄₁₆
1 month	12¹¹⁄₁₆-12⁹⁄₁₆	9 months	12⁵⁄₁₆-12³⁄₁₆
3 months	12¹¹⁄₁₆-12⁹⁄₁₆	12 months	12³⁄₁₆-12¹⁄₁₆

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 13¼ 6 months 13

Finance House Base Rate 14%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate+	% change adjusted*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.6255	+4.61	+1.20	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.98065	+3.33	−0.08	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.53883	+2.29	−1.12	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.98935	+2.43	−0.98	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81341	+2.51	−0.90	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.695179	+4.03	+0.62	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1235.99	+6.75	+3.34	4.08

+ changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 13-14; seven days, 13⅛-13⅜; one month, 13⁹⁄₁₆-13¹³⁄₁₆; three months, 13¹¹⁄₁₆-13¹⁵⁄₁₆; six months, 13¹⁵⁄₁₆-14¹⁄₁₆.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $512.75 (an ounce); pm, $510 close, $508.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $524-527 (£229.5-231).
Sovereigns (new): $127-129 (£55.5-56.5).

Wall Street

New York, March 19.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed lower in heavy trading. The index fell 0.35 to 76.64 and the average price per share 16 cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 7.48 to 986.58 but advances led declines 860 to 710 as volume expanded to 62,440,000 shares from 55,740,000 yesterday.

Among the oils, Cities Service fell 3⅞ to 43 and volume leader Texaco one to 35½ after losing 1¼ yesterday in heavy trading. Exxon lost 1⅝ to 68⅞ Standard Oil of California ⅝ to 40⅛, Mobil one to 64⅞ and Getty 2⅜ to 71⅜. The Canadian Government refused to let Getty and Mobil buy more of their Canadian units.

Takeover news stimulated buying again. Newmont Mining surged 6⅞ to 61⅞. Exxon said it has no plans to buy Newmont.

Brokerage shares rose on takeover speculation following news Prudential agreed to acquire Bache Group for $32 a share or $385m. Bache, which did not trade today, closed at 28⅜ yesterday. E. F. Hutton rose one to 31½. Dean Witter ⅜ to 23, Paine Webber 1⅝ to 21⅞ and A. G. Edwards one to 23½.

Merrill Lynch, which has been buying insurance companies and would thus compete with Prudential in several fields, lost ⅜ to 35⅜. Ina Corporation, which holds 20 per cent of Paine Webber, eased ⅛ to 44½.

Hilton Hotels jumped 3⅞ to 47½, Bally Manufacturing one to 20⅜. Caesars World ⅜ to 12⅞ and Golden Nugget ⅜ to 32q.

US commodities

GOLD firmed to $510-$512 an ounce from $509-$511 late Wednesday. CHICAGO IMM.—June $587.00-590.00, July $595.30 nominal; Sept, $605.00; Dec, $621.00; March $642.50 nominal; April $648.50 nominal; June $660.40 nominal; July $666.40 nominal. NY COMEX.—March $510.60; April $511.00-515.00; May $517.20; June $521.00-523.00; Aug, $533.00; Oct, $545.00-547.00; Dec, $555.50; Feb, $566.80; April $576.00; June $589.30; Aug, $600.60; Oct, $612.00; Dec, $623.60.

SILVER futures lost 12 to 16 cents at the close on oddlot selling linked to gold futures. March 1,310.00c, April 1,310.00c; May, 1,325.00c; June, 1,340.00c; Aug, 1,368.50c; Oct, 1,399.00c; Dec, 1,429.50c; Feb, 1,460.00c; April 1,490.50c; June 1,521.00c.

COPPER futures closed down 0.75c to 0.10c: March, 85.30c; April, 85.60c; May, 86.55-86.85c; July, 88.75-88.90c; Sept, 91.30c; Dec, 94.20c; Jan, 95.00c; March, 97.40c; May, 98.70c; July, 100.55c; Sept, 102.40c; Dec, 105.40c; Jan, 106.40c.

COTTON futures were: May, 86.35-86.45c; July, 87.50-87.65c; Oct, 85.20c; Dec, 82.30-82.50c; March, 83.10c; May, 84.00c bid-84.50c asked; July, 84.50c bid-85.00c asked.

SUGAR futures prices were off 0.21 to 0.57 cent with the spot month backtracking to 22.16 cents from a high at 23.15 cents. May, 22.05-22.25c; July, 22.00-22.05c; Sept, 21.70c; Oct, 21.45-21.50c; Jan, 20.00 bid-20.20c asked; March, 20.10-20.20c; May, 20.20 bid-20.30c asked; July, 20.40.

COFFEE futures extended yesterday's limit advance by closing a very active trade with pared gains of 2.55 to 0.82 cents. Near May added most at 126.37 cents a lb. March, 124.25; May, 126.20-126.50; July, 127.30-127.40; Sept, 128.00; Dec, 126.60-126.75; March, 122.00-125.50; May, 122.50; July, 124.00 bid-125.00c asked.

COCOA futures closed up $11 to $31: March, $2.025-2.025; May, $2.118-2.091; July, $2.160-2.140; Sept, $2.195-2.177; Dec, $2.255-2.230; March, $2.300-2.300; July, $2.350-2.350.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Futures ended 6¼ cents a bushel higher to 2¼ cents lower in mostly local trade. Prices finished near the top of an eight cent range. Oil settled up 0.38c to 0.12c a lb. Meal finished down $1 to $2 a ton. SOYABEANS.—March, 758-750½c; May, 773-766c; July 795-787c; Aug, 801-797c; Sept, 814-805c; Nov, 826½-822c; Jan, 844½-840½c; March, 865-861c. SOYABEAN OIL.—March, 24.90-24.87c; May, 25.53-25.71c; July, 26.15-26.10c; Aug, 26.30c; Sept, 26.50-26.35c; Oct, 27.30-27.25c; March, 27.85-27.95c; Dec, 26.70-26.65c; Dec, 27.20c; Jan, asked; May, 28.35-28.45c asked.

SOYABEAN MEAL.—March, $212.50; May, $218.20-217.80; July, $225.50-224.80; Aug, $228.00 bid, $229.50 asked; Sept, $231.00 bid, $231.50 asked; Oct, $233.50 bid, $235.00 asked; Dec, $238.00-238.30; Jan, $240.80; March, $245.00 bid, $247.00 asked.

CHICAGO GRAINS.—Wheat futures closed down 5¼ to three cents a bushel in revived trade. Prices settled on the low side of a five cent range. Corn futures rallied to finish ¼c a bushel lower to up 5c. Only Maize settled with a loss. WHEAT.—March, 432½-427c; May, 438-432½c; July, 444-438½c; Sept, 458½-454c; Dec, 478½-474½c; March, 494½-491c. CORN.—March, 357¼-352c; May, 366-360¾c; July, 374½-369¼c; Sept, 375-370c; Dec, 376-370¼c; March 385-381½c. OATS.—March, 230-225½c; May, 218-216¼c; July, 211½-209c; Sept, 209¾-209c; Dec, 210½-218c.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.2740 (2.2650); three months, 2.3025 (2.2924); Canadian dollar 1.1843 (1.1855).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 422.49 (421.70). The futures index was 437.97 (432.13).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 986.58 (994.06); transportation 416.65 (425.07); utilities 108.88 (108.84); 65 stocks, 330.91 (334.33).

New York Stock Exchange index, 76.64 (76.99); [illegible] 84.27 (83.30); financial, 74.72 (75.00); industrials 89.32 (89.60); transportation, 76.85 (78.31); utilities, (74.57).

	Mar 19	Mar 18
Allied Chem	53¾	54½
Allied Stores	23¼	23⅝
Allis Chalmers	30½	30⅝
Alcoa	35½	36¼
Amax Inc	56⅝	56⅝
Amerada Hess	34⅞	35¼
Am Airlines	14⅝	14⅞
Am Brands	70¾	72⅝
Am Broadcast	30	29⅜
Am Can	31⅛	30⅞
Am Cyanamid	31¼	31⅞
Am Elec Power	17	16⅞
Am Home	32⅞	31½
Am Motors	4⅞	4⅞
Am Nat Res	42⅞	43¾
Am Standard	36¾	36⅝
Am Telephone	53	52⅞
AMF Inc	21¾	21¼
Armco Steel	39⅝	40⅛
Asarco	41⅝	42⅝
Ashland Oil	38⅛	39
Atlntic Richfield	52⅞	53⅜
Avco	26⅞	26⅞
Avon Products	38⅝	38¾
Bankers Tst NY	30⅞	30⅞
Bank of America	28¾	28⅝
Bank of NY	37¼	36⅞
Beatrice Foods	20⅝	20½
Bendix	62⅝	63¾
Bethlehem Steel	30⅞	31
Boeing	34½	34⅛
Boise Cascade	44¼	44
Borden	27¼	27⅞
Borg Warner	42⅞	42⅞
Bristol Myers	58½	58⅝
BP	36⅞	37¼
Burlington Ind	20½	20⅛
Burlington Nthn	61⅞	63¾
Burroughs	53¼	52¾
Campbell Soup	32¼	31⅛
Canadian Pacific	39⅛	39⅛
Caterpillar	67	67⅞
Celanese	67	67½
Central Soya	15	15
Chase Manhat	47¾	47⅞
Chem Bank NY	52⅞	53¾
Chrysler	6½	6⅝
Citicorp	24⅞	24½
Cities Service	43⅛	47
Clark Equip	36⅞	36⅞
Coca Cola	37	36¾
Colgate	17	16⅞
CBS	56¾	56½
Columbia Gas	37½	38⅛
Combustion Eng	42⅛	42
Comwlth Edison	18⅝	18¾
Conoco	53½	54½
Cons Edison	26½	25⅞
Cons Foods	29¼	29
Cons Power	17½	17⅞
Continental Grp	37	37
Control Data	65¼	67⅞
Corning Glass	65¼	67⅞
CPC Intnl	67	67
Crane	43½	42⅞
Crocker Int	39½	39½
Crown Zeller	49⅞	40⅞
Dart & Kraft	48	48¼
Deere	44¼	44½
Delta Air	72⅞	72
Detroit Edison	11½	11¼
Disney	55¼	56¼
Dow Chemical	36⅞	37
Dresser Ind	46	47½
Duke Power	17½	17⅞
Du Pont	46⅞	50
Eastern Air	9⅛	9⅛
Eastman Kodak	80⅞	79¾
Eaton Corp	34⅞	32¾
El Paso Nat Gas	24½	24¾
Equitable Life	10⅞	10⅞
Esmark	61⅞	62¾
Evans P. D.	21½	21⅞
Exxon Corp	68⅞	69½
Fed Dept Stores	37	36½
Firestone	12⅞	12⅞
Fst Chicago	10⅞	10⅞
Fst Nat Boston	38⅞	38½

	Mar 19	Mar 18
Fst Penn Corp	4⅞	4⅞
Ford	25	25¼
GAF Corp	13¼	13⅞
Gen Dynamics	32¾	32⅝
Gen Electric	67⅛	67⅛
Gen Foods	32⅞	32⅞
Gen Mills	33	32⅞
Gen Motors	54¼	54⅞
Gen Pub Util NY	4⅞	4⅞
Gen Tel Elec	27⅞	26⅞
Gen Tire	25¼	25
Genesco	7	7
Georgia Pacific	31¼	31½
Getty Oil	71½	74½
Gillette	29⅛	29⅞
Goodrich	26⅞	26⅞
Goodyear	19⅛	19⅞
Gould Inc	27¼	27¼
Grace	48⅞	49⅝
Gt Atlc & Pacific	5⅛	5⅛
Greyhound	17½	17½
Grumman Corp	26⅝	27
Gulf Oil	35⅛	35⅝
Gulf & West	16⅝	16⅞
Heinz H. J.	55⅞	56½
Hercules	24½	24½
Honeywell	102½	107⅞
IC Inds	35⅛	35⅞
Ingersoll	72⅞	73
Inland Steel	34¼	34⅝
IBM	63⅞	64⅛
Int Harvester	18⅞	19
INCO	21½	22
Int Paper	50¼	50½
Int Tel Tel	32¼	32⅞
Irving Bank	47⅞	47⅞
Jewel Co	37½	37½
Jim Walter	27¼	26⅞
Johns-Manville	23¼	23⅞
Johnson & John	102⅞	103⅞
Kaiser Alumin	25¼	25¼
Kennecott	54	54
Kerr McGee	75⅝	77⅝
Kimberly Clark	63⅞	64⅛
K Mart	16½	19⅞
Kroger	25¼	25⅛
L.T.V. Corp	22½	22⅞
Litton	65½	67½
Lockheed	26½	25⅞
Lucky Stores	16⅞	18
Manuf Hanover	34½	34
Mapco	39⅞	39
Marathon Oil	53½	55¼
Marine Midland	17½	17⅛
Martin Marietta	66¼	65⅞
McDonnell	43⅞	43½
Mead	31	30⅝
Merck	84⅛	85½
Minnesota Mng	62¼	62
Mobil Oil	64⅞	65⅞
Monsanto	72⅞	75⅞
Morgan J. P.	51	52½
Motorola	69½	68⅞
NCR Corp	63	64⅞
NL Industries	63	65⅛
Nabisco	31⅛	30⅞
Nat Distillers	28¼	27⅞
Nat Steel	29¼	23⅛
Norfolk West	45½	46
NW Bancorp	20¼	30⅞
Norton Simon	17⅞	17⅞
Occidental Pet	29⅞	30⅞
Ogden	33⅞	33
Olin Corp	23⅞	24⅛
Owens-Illinois	29⅝	30
Pacific Gas Elec	21	21⅛
Pan Am	4⅛	4⅞
Penney J. C.	28½	28⅞
Pennzoil	41	41⅞
Pepsico	35⅛	34⅞
Pfizer	53⅞	55⅞
Phelps Dodge	4[illegible]	42⅞
Philip Morris	50⅞	51
Phillips Petrol	47½	46⅞
Polaroid	28¼	28
PPG Ind	50⅞	51½
Proctor Gamble	71⅞	72¼
Pub Ser El & Gas	18½	16⅝

	Mar 19	Mar 18
Rapid American	25½	25½
Raytheon	99⅛	96⅛
RCA Corp	27⅞	27⅛
Republic Steel	29¼	29⅞
Reynolds Ind	42	43
Reynolds Metal	37⅞	37
Rockwell Int	36⅞	37¼
Royal Dutch	41⅞	42⅞
Safeways	37	37
St Regis Paper	40⅛	40½
Santa Fe Ind	90	90⅛
SCM	27½	20½
Schlumberger	99¼	96⅞
Scott Paper	27⅛	27⅛
Seagram	53⅞	54¼
Sears Roebuck	16⅞	17
Shell Oil	43¼	44⅞
Shell Trans	36	36¼
Signal Co	29⅞	29½
Singer	16½	16⅛
Sony	17⅞	17⅞
Sth Cal Edison	25⅛	25
Southern Pacific	41	41⅛
Southern Rly	84	83⅞
Sperry Corp	58⅞	58⅞
Std Brands	27¼	28
Std Oil Califnia	40⅛	41
Std Oil Indiana	67⅞	64⅛
Std Oil Ohio	49⅞	51⅞
Sterling Drug	25	25⅞
Stevens J. P.	14	14
Sunbeam Corp	19	18⅞
Sun Comp	40⅛	40½
Teledyne	177½	198
Tenneco	47⅞	49½
Texaco	35½	36½
Texas East Corp	55½	55⅞
Texas Inst	116⅛	116¼
Texas Utilities	17⅛	17⅛
Textron	32¼	31⅛
TWA	21½	21½
Travelers Corp	48½	47⅞
TRW Inc	62	63⅞
UAL Inc	24¼	24⅞
Union Carbide	58½	58⅞
Union Oil Calif	35⅛	39⅛
Un Pacific Corp	68	71⅞
Uniroyal	7⅞	6⅞
United Brands	14⅛	14½
US Industries	9⅞	10⅛
US Steel	33⅛	32
Utd Technol	55⅛	55⅛
Wachovia	24	23½
Warner Lambert	21½	20⅞
Wells Fargo	27⅞	27⅞
West'n Bancorp	38	37½
Westnghse Elec	31¼	30⅞
Weyerhauser	40	40
Whirlpool	24⅞	21⅞
White Motor	2⅞	2⅞
Woolworth	26⅛	26¼
Xerox Corp	58	59⅛
Zenith	17⅞	17

Canadian Prices

	Mar 19	Mar 18
Abitibi	28	28
Alcan Alumin	45⅞	46⅛
Algoma Steel	46½	45⅞
Bell Telephone	18¾	18⅞
Cominco	66	69⅞
Cons Bathurst	27⅞	27⅞
Gulf Oil	23½	22⅞
Hawker Sid Can	25½	26⅞
Hudson Bay Mng	33	33½
Hudson Bay Oil	21⅞	21⅞
Imasco	35¼	35¼
Imperial Oil	31⅞	31⅞
Int Pipe	14⅞	14⅞
Mass.-Fergsn	4⅞	4⅛
Royal Trust	21	21½
Seagram	69¼	64⅞
Steel Co	28¼	33
Thomson N 'A'	22	22½
Walker Hiram	26¼	26⅞
WCT	15	14⅞

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers, 72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks 0296-5941			
62.1	47.1	American Grwth	55.0	62.4	2.32
46.6	33.1	Capital	46.3	50.1	4.60
57.3	44.0	General	55.7	60.2	5.10
116.6	100.7	Gilt & Fixed Int	107.3	112.9	11.60
37.9	27.3	Income	35.3	38.2	9.19
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Charinco Charities Narrower-Range Fund, 15 Moorgate, London, EC2. 01-638 4121			
122.1	108.2	Income (34)	119.3		11.73
206.1	161.6	Do Accum (34)	206.1		11.73
		Charities Official Investment Fund, 77 London Wall, London, EC2. 01-588 1815			
159.4	129.6	Inc* (24)	152.1		7.89
391.6	288.0	Accum* (24)	372.3		..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, W Sussex. 01-623 1288			
71.1	55.8	Balanced	69.8	75.0	4.68
106.2	81.2	Do Accum	105.7	113.6	4.68
50.0	49.8	Energy Int	46.4	49.8	2.00
50.0	49.8	Do Accum	46.4	49.8	2.00
83.0	59.2	Worldwide	82.3	88.4	2.22
109.1	76.9	Do Accum	109.1	117.3	2.22
95.2	81.1	Income	92.6	99.5	7.27
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Scotbits Securities Ltd.			
50.7	38.3	Scotbits	49.6	53.3	4.32
83.1	69.4	Scotshares	83.1	89.3	4.58
54.5	47.0	Scotyields	52.3	56.2e	8.50
		Schroder Unit Trust Manager Ltd, 46 St Martins Lane, WC2N 4EP. 0705 27733			
48.7	50.0	American	47.8	51.3	2.00
48.7	50.0	Do Accum	47.8	51.3	2.00
169.2	122.2	Capital (3)	164.4	176.7	2.80
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
96.0	100.0	Money Pen	96.0	101.2	..
97.4	100.0	High Yld Pen	97.4	102.6	..
121.9	84.7	AMEV Fram Am	119.6	126.0	..
115.9	95.0	Do Income	114.5	120.7	..
139.3	98.7	Do Intl Gr'th	136.1	143.4	..
121.3	100.5	Do Capital	121.0	127.5	..
		Barclays Life Assurance Co, Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, E7. 01-534 5544			
159.1	115.7	Barclaybonds	159.1	167.5	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Irish Life Assurance, 11 Finsbury Sq, London, EC2. 01-628 8253			
265.4	228.1	Prop Modules	230.3	242.4	..
285.5	248.4	Do Growth (31)	254.4	268.8	..
134.0	126.2	Do Series 2	128.6	135.3	..
150.2	135.9	Exempt Managed	143.7	151.3	..
287.6	257.7	Managed Fnd	265.5	279.5	..
115.7	103.7	Do Series 2	106.6	112.2	..
88.2	75.9	Blue Chip Fnd	82.9	87.3	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Prudential Pensions Ltd, Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH. 01-405 9222			
36.10	28.90	Equity	£ 35.74	38.33	..
25.00	20.90	Fixed Int	£ 22.94	24.15	..
42.43	35.80	Property	£ 42.43	43.74	..
		Reliance Mutual Insurance Society Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 0892 22271			
309.7	264.3	Prop (1st Issue)	..	309.7	..
98.7	100.0	Prop (2nd Issue)	96.6	101.6	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Vanbrugh Life Assurance Ltd, 41-43 Maddox St, London, W1R9LA. 01-499 4923			
198.1	167.4	Managed Fund	195.5	205.8	..
336.8	259.4	Do Equity	327.8	345.1	..
194.3	173.3	Do Fixed Int	192.7	202.9	..
208.4	187.2	Do Property	206.4	217.3	..
148.4	139.1	Do Cash	145.4	156.3	..
128.6	94.8	Do Int	125.4	132.0	..
		Vanbrugh Pensions Limited			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Strong demand for gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 16. Dealings End, March 27. § Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red Yield
SHORTS								
99	91	Exch	8¼%	1981	99	..	8.332	12.621
99¼	91	Exch	9½%	1981	99½	..	9.584	11.948
96⅝	88½	Exch	3%	1981	96⅝	..	3.105	11.549
100¹⁵⁄₁₆	93¾	Exch	12¾%	1981	100⅝	-⅛	12.710	12.193
97¾	88	Treas	8½%	1980-82	97¾	..	8.746	12.189
95¼	81⅝	Treas	3%	1982	94¾	-⅛	3.166	9.137
102¾	90½	Treas	14%	1982	102⅛	..	13.700	11.631
95¼	85¼	Treas	8¼%	1982	95¹¹⁄₁₆	..	8.621	11.973
96	85¾	Exch	9¼%	1982	95¹¹⁄₁₆	..	9.607	12.461
94⅞	84⅛	Exch	8¾%	1983	94¹¹⁄₁₆	..	9.241	12.135
89¼	76½	Exch	3%	1983	89¼	..	3.368	9.321
99⁷⁄₁₆	85¾	Treas	12%	1983	99⅜	..	12.098	12.468
94	84⅛	Treas	9¼%	1983	94	..	9.840	12.002
103½	94¼	Exch	13½%	1983	101⅞	..	13.272	12.634
94	84⅛	Exch	10%	1983	94	..	10.638	12.657
87⅞	76⅛	Fund	5½%	1982-84	87	..	6.323	10.976
97⁵⁄₁₆	86⅞	Exch	11¼%	1984	96⅝	-⅛	11.643	12.663
104⁵⁄₁₆	94½	Exch	14%	1984	103⅜	-⅛	13.566	12.736
80⅝	68¼	Exch	3%	1984	80⅝	+⅛	3.721	10.156
99⅞	88	Treas	12%	1984	98⅝	•+⅛	12.206	12.585
109¼	97⅝	Treas	15%	1985	107⅝	+⅛	13.937	12.465
98⅝	96⁹⁄₁₆	Exch Cv	12%	1985	98⅝	+⅛	12.167	12.429
75⅝	68⁹⁄₁₆	Treas	3%	1985	75⅝	+⅛	3.968	10.252
MEDIUMS								
103¼	89½	Exch	12¼%	1985	98⅝	+⅛	12.421	12.634
97⅞	93½	Exch	11¾%	1986	96¹⁵⁄₁₆	+⅛	12.136	12.925
69¹⁵⁄₁₆	69½	Treas	3%	1986	69¹⁵⁄₁₆	+⅛	4.307	10.820
89⅞	78⅛	Treas	8½%	1984-86	87⅞	+⅛	9.676	12.141
105⅛	90⅝	Exch	13¼%	1987	103⅛	+⅛	13.061	12.886
81⅝	70¼	Fund	6½%	1985-87	81⅞	+⅛	8.217	11.335
99½	91⅛	Treas	12%	1987	99½	+⅛	12.646	13.173
83	71⅞	Treas	7¾%	1985-88	80½	+⅛	9.772	12.307
65¾	54⅞	Trans	3%	1978-88	65¼	+⅛	4.644	9.559
98	82⅞	Treas	11½%	1989	92½	+½	12.553	13.247
68¼	57⅞	Treas	5%	1986-89	65¼	•+⅛	7.627	11.405
104¼	89⅛	Treas	13%	1990	101	+½	13.185	13.271
82	69½	Treas	8¼%	1987-90	80½	+½	10.534	13.234
96¾	81⅞	Treas	11¾%	1991	92⅞	+¾	12.994	13.536

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence
195	117	AAH	125	• ..	12.6
200	96	AB Electronics	116	+12	1.8
244	111½	AGB Research	222	+5	6.8
20	12	Al Ind Prod	17	..	0.4
223	161	APV Hldgs	223	+3	15.7
71	46	Aaronson Bros	52	+1	6.0
88	42½	Acrow	60	..	..
50	25	Do A	37	..	..
270	142	Advest Group	164	..	10.6
428	109½	Aeron'l & Gen.	363	..	2.5
37	15	Aero Needles	22	-1	..
600	295	AKZO	290	..	..
111	45	Alcan Alum UK	110	..	..
93½	77½	Do 10½%	280½	+½	1050
42	30	Allen W. G.	40	+2	4.4
140	85	Allied Colloids	121	+1	3.6
50½	24¾	Allied Plant	32½	+1½	2.5
290	222	Amal Metal	215	+5	20.0
90	49	Amal Power	90	..	4.4
39½	23	Amber Day	30	• +1	4.1
35	26	Amber Ind Hldgs	26	..	7.1
150	62	Amstrad	138	+1	2.9
80	56	Anchor Chem	67	..	7.6
105½	53¼	Anderson Strath	87	+3½	5.7
95	60	Anglia TV 'A'	95	• ..	7.1
11	7¾	Anglo Amer Ind	£9¾	• ..	79.6
37½	22½	Aquascutum 'A'	31½	..	2.9
61	34	Arenson Hldgs	42	..	2.8
128	35½	Argyll Foods	124	..	1.7
73	30	Arlen Elec	73	+2	4.3
114	80	Arlington Mtr	93	..	12.9
63	45	Ass Biscuit	60	+2	6.3
221	178	Ass Book	215	..	10.7
132	85	Ass Brit Food	125	+1	5.0

PERSONAL CHOICE



Lesley-Anne Down as Unity Mitford in John Mortimer's play Unity, based on David Pryce-Jones's biography (BBC 2 9.00).

● John Mortimer's play Unity (BBC 2, 9.00) is about one of the most ridiculous infatuations in recent history, that of Unity Mitford for Adolf Hitler. Initially bowled over by his blue eyes, she subsequently added his black mackintosh and ended up by swallowing everything he said and thought. Only slightly more farcical, if Mr Mortimer's play is to be believed, was Hitler's gullibility about Miss Mitford. She won her way to his side, even on to his podium, by representing herself as an interpreter of Britain's complaisant attitude towards Nazi Germany whereas, to quote James Villiers's epigrammatic British envoy (a delicious performance), she was nothing more than a wayward debutante. Anyway, it was a ludicrous Anglo-German axis, and Mr Mortimer's writing robs it of none of that quality. Lesley-Anne Down makes a pretty silly Unity. I use both adjectives literally, though I must admit to finding her performance strangely superficial.

● Doomed to die it might be, but Westward Television is still lustily alive and kicking and, when allowed to poke its nose into the national network, as it does again today (12.30), the prebocis invariably survives the experience unbloodied. Peter Fiddick, television critic of The Guardian, is presenting his second series about the industry he variously castigates and lauds. With a reservation or two (Smart Alec presentation, machine-gun delivery of facts and figures), I thought Westward's first series entertaining and instructive, and Mr Fiddick a witty and confident presenter. He proves so again today. His theme is the way TV can sharpen our perception of nature, medicine and space. He is strongly supported by David Attenborough and by so many BBC TV clips that you might wonder, at moments, whether your set has taken it upon itself to switch over to the Other Channel.

● Just when I was starting to wonder what had happened to Frank Finlay, an actor in a thousand, up he pops in the first performance in Britain of a Turgenev play called The Poor Gentleman (Radio 4, 3.02), its original and difficult length of 80 minutes lopped by 10. Morag Hood plays his daughter. It is a comedy, using that word strictly in the Russian sense. . . . Nicholas Daniel, the oboe player voted BBC Young Musician of the Year 1980, can be heard as soloist in today's Radio 3 concert by the Marlborough College Wind Band (3.55) which includes the first broadcast performance of Khachaturian's symphonic suite The Battle of Stalingrad. . . . Live from Nottingham tonight (Radio 3, 7.30) the ENO production of Monteverdi's opera La favola d'Orfeo.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO; ★ BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC1

6.40 Open University: Miracles at Lourdes. 7.05 Calling the tune. 7.30 Language in context. Closedown at 7.55.

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Encounter: Germany. 9.25 Athlete: javelin. 9.52 Look and Read. 10.15 Maths-in-a-Box (weight watching). 10.35 Going to Work: local builder. 11.02 Hyn o Fyd (Welsh programme). 11.25 You and Me: includes a West Indian story.

11.40 For Schools, Colleges. Exploring Science: stars. Closedown at 12.05.

12.45 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: An interview with the American singing and dancing star Rita Moreno who appeared in the film version of West Side Story. 1.45 How Do You Do? Caroline's Hat (r).

2.02 For Schools, Colleges: Dogs and the owners. 2.35 A Good Job with Prospects: commercial art. Closedown at 3.00.

3.20 Trees: the Georgian State Dance Company. Already seen on BBC Wales.

3.55 Play School. The story of Annette. Also shown on BBC1, 3.55.

4.20 Secret Squirrel: cartoon. Ship of Spies. 4.25 Jackanory: Ann Morish with the last of her readings from Mary Cockett's Shadow at Applegarth.

4.40 Finders Keepers: Electronic ping-pong battle between teams from Herne County Junior School, and Colindale Primary School. With Richard Stilgoe as referee. 5.05 Breakthrough: John Craven takes a high-speed train from London to Cornwall to tell the story of the GWR's creator, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. 5.35 Fred Basset: House Bound (r).

5.40 News: with Richard Baker. 5.55 Regional news magazines. All regions unite at 6.20 for Nationwide which includes Alan Titchmarsh's gardening guide and Desmond Lynam's Sportswide.

7.05 Tom and Jerry: cartoons. Yankee Doodle Mouse, and Slicked up Pup.

7.15 A Question of Sport: Sporting quiz, with Emlyn Hughes and Gareth Edwards captaining the teams. David Coleman is the referee. Panellists include Duncan Goodhew, the snooker champion Cliff Thorburn and Suzanne Dando, the British gymnastics champion.

7.45 Coming Home: Comedy series. Donald and Sheila are holidaying in Spain, blissfully unaware of what is happening back at home. With Sharon Duce and Philip Jackson.

8.15 Cliff in London: Part of a concert filmed at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. Mr Richard sings Livin' Doll, The Young Ones and The Minute You're Gone et al.

8.50 Points of View: Barry Took entertainingly replies to viewers' letters about BBC TV programmes.

9.00 News: with Kenneth Kendall.

9.25 Starsky and Hutch: Part two of The Plague. Starsky's hunt for the plague carrier goes on, but Hutch is at death's door.

10.15 Time of My Life: Comedy series starring Mark Kingston and Amanda Barrie.

10.50 Film: The Woman in White* (1948) Atmospheric, beautifully photographed Warner Brothers version of the Wilkie Collins melodrama, with Gig Young as the young artist involved in strange goings-on in a country mansion. With Sydney Greenstreet as the villainous Count Fosco, and Alexis Smith and Eleanor Parker as the cousins. Ends at 12.40.

Regions

BBC1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales: [illegible]

BBC2

6.40 Open University. The nature of chemistry; 7.05 Maths: isomorphisms; 7.30 Sin (a + b). Closedown at 7.55.

11.00 Play School: Same as BBC1, 3.55 (Annette, devised by Marion Walter). Closedown at 11.25.

4.50 Open University. Parents at Nelson; 5.15 Man-powered aircraft (2).

5.40 King of the Rocket Men* Final chapter of this old Saturday morning children's film club serial. Wave of Disaster.

5.55 Monkey: Fantastic odyssey in old China, filmed by Japanese television and dubbed into English. Tonight: an encounter with a cuddly monster.

6.40 Speak for Yourself: Final programme in this course in practical English. What to do if you are arrested. Screened again next Tuesday.

7.05 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.15 One Hundred Great Paintings: Edwin Mullins tells us practically all there is to know about Cezanne's The Montagne Sainte-Victoire from the Bibemus Quarry, which hangs in the Baltimore Museum, Maryland.

7.25 Oxford Road Show: live show from Manchester, with a young cast.

8.00 Gardeners' World: The plants and seeds from China that Roy Lancaster brought back from his garden at Winchester, Hampshire. With Geoffrey Smith.

8.25 France: The Seven Year Switch? Newsweek preview of next week's presidential elections in France. Will it be another seven years in office for Valery Giscard d'Estaing?

9.00 Playhouse: Unity. John Mortimer's play has Lesley-Anne Down as Unity Mitford. It examines the ambivalent nature of her relationship with Adolf Hitler (Ernst Jacobi). Based on David Pryce-Jones's biography (see Personal Choice).

10.45 Newsnight: Bulletins and comment. 11.30 Friday Night . . . Saturday Morning: Chat Show, with Tim Rice in the chair. His guests are Shirley Williams, Dr Anne Smith, founder and editor of the Literary Review, and Richard Huggett who stages a one-man show based on the words of Evelyn Waugh. Ends at 12.15.

THAMES

9.30 For Schools: Botanic Man (Assam); 9.58 Cities: Weston-super-Mare; 10.15 A French family at home; 10.38 A-level evolution; 11.02 Wool, from lamb to carpet; 11.14 Reading with Lenny the Lion; 11.25 Maths; 11.43 For the hard of hearing.

12.00 The Magic Ball: Sam at the circus. Eric Thompson is the storyteller; 12.10 Once Upon a time: Mark Wynter tells the story of The Crocodile and the Jackal.

12.30 The Television Programme: Peter Fiddick, TV columnist of the Guardian, looks at television programmes on nature, medicine and space. With David Attenborough. First in a new series (see Personal Choice).

1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; 1.30 Together: Serial about folks living in a block of flats. A surprise for Mary Sorrow (Christine Pollon); 2.00 After Noon Plus: Mavis Nicholson interviews a couple who are drifting apart.

2.45 Film: Tell Me My Name (1977) American drama about the secret a woman (Barbara Barrie) kept from her husband — the fact that she had an illegitimate daughter whom she arranged to have adopted. Made for TV.

4.15 Watch It! A Dr Snuggles story; 4.30 The Adventures of Black Beauty: British-made series about horse-lovers.

4.45 The Extraordinary People Show: Three aspiring doctors talk to Peter Plumridge, a leading gynaecologist; 5.15 Clapperboard: Michael Apted, director of the highly-praised film The Coalminer's Daughter, is interviewed by Chris Kelly.

5.45 News; 6.00 Thames News; 6.30 Thames Sport: The prospects for the weekend.

London Weekend

7.00 Family Fortunes: Families compete in this prize quiz, conducted by Bob Monkhouse; 7.30 Vegas: A plea for help — then a girl is murdered. Dan Tanna (Robert Urich) investigates.

8.30 Holding the Fort: Situation comedy with Patricia Hodge and Peter Davison as the couple who exchange roles. They advise a friend (Matthew Kelly) on how he should propose to his police constable girlfriend.

9.00 My Father's House: The course of Anna Blake's life is changed when a night spent innocently with Jonathan Lawrence brings out the guilt in others. Serial, with Judy Holt as Anna and Helen Ryan as the unrelenting mother.

10.00 News.

10.30 Benson: Comedy about a governor's black butler (Robert Guillaume).

11.00 The London Programme: Chaos on the Airwaves? This edition is devoted to Citizen's Band Radio. Timothy Raison, the Home Office minister, is asked why he refused to legalise the 27 AM band, the method of transmission now employed.

11.35 The Electric Theatre Show: Movie clips programme, presented by Hamish Wilson.

12.05 am Stars on Ice: From Canada. The entertainers include Broadway singing star Melba Moore; Tim Wood, an Olympic silver medallist and the Rianos Duo.

12.30 Close: Johnny Morris reads something written by one of the great Chinese philosophers.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs.†
9.45 Feedback.
10.00 News.
10.02 International Assignment.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: The Last Leaf, by O. Henry.
11.00 News.
11.05 With One Voice?
11.35 Natural Selection.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 My Music.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: The Poor Gentleman, by Ivan Turgenev.† (See Personal Choice.)
4.05 Weigh-In.
4.15 Folktales (3).
4.45 The Householder (5).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week.†
8.10 Profile.
8.30 Any Questions?
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.35 Week Ending.†
11.00 Anna of the Five Towns (5).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 BBC Sound Archives.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Contact; Music Interlude; Country Dancing Stage II (8); Notice board (2); Music Workshop (8).
10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother.
11.00-12.00 Schools: Exploring Society; Listening and Writing (8); Prospect (8).
2.00 pm-3.00 pm Schools: Let's Join In; Religious Education (3); Music Interlude.
11.00-12.00 Study On 4: Kontakte (21); Allez France! (20).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Mozart, Flies, Schuller.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Biber, Isaac, Fux, Bach, Sammartini.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Fauré.†
10.00 BBC Concert: Orch/Lawrence: W. Reed, A. Butterworth, Langford, Jausky, Leighton.†
11.00 Piano trio: Haydn, Brahms (op 8).†
12.00 BBC Northern SO/Herbig, pt 1: Schoenberg (Verklarte Nacht), Stravinsky (Pno Conc — Bishop-Kovacevich).†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 BBC NSO, pt 2: Schumann (Sym 3).†
1.45 Quartet (Chilingirian): Mozart (K387), M. B. Watkins (1st perf), Schubert (D804).†
3.25 BBC Singers/Poole: Vaughan Williams, Schumann.†
3.55 Wind (Marlborough College): Shostakovich, Rimsky-Korsakov, Khachaturian (Battle of Stalingrad — 1st bdcst) (see Personal Choice).†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.55 Play it Again: review.†
7.00 Record: Chopin.†
7.15 The Fair of Ears: review.
7.30 Opera: La favola d'Orfeo, by Monteverdi (O'Neill/Rolfe Johnson/ENO/Gardiner — live from Nottingham), Acts I and II (see Personal Choice).†
8.25 Djilas on Tito (2).
8.45 La favola d'Orfeo, Acts III and IV.†
9.55 Music in Our Time: Maxwell Davies, Hoyland, Rands, Petrassi (Grand Septuor — 1st UK bdcst).†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Liszt.†

VHF
5.55 am-6.55 Open University: Bias and Judgement; A Hindu Testimony; Personality Assessment.
11.15 pm-12.55 am Open University: Why Fourier?; History of Mathematics; Politics of Caricature; The Digital Computer; The Cell Nucleus.

Radio 2

5.00 am Bob Kilbey.† 7.30 Ray Moore.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 David Hamilton.† 2.00 pm Steve Jones.† 4.00 Much More Music.† 6.00 John Dunn.† 8.00 Victor Silvester Jr.† 8.45 Friday Night is Music Night.† 10.00 Castle's on the Air. 10.30 The Organist Entertains. 11.00 Brian Matthew. 2.00 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis. 4.30 Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.30 Anne Nightingale. 10.00 Friday Rock Show.† 12.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):

[illegible] 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Masters of Early Music. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 The Book Programme. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 My Word! 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service; med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

ATV

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Clairvoyant (Claude Rains). 6.00-7.00 ATV Today. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 News. 11.05-12.45 am Film: Island of Terror (Peter Cushing).

Southern

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Overboard (Angie Dickinson). 5.15-5.45 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Scene South East. 6.30-7.00 Survival. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.35 Isle of Wight Artisans. 11.05 Soap. 11.35 Film: I Even Met Happy Gypsies. 1.20 am Weather followed by Hard Awakening.

Granada

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Live from Two. 2.45-4.15 Film: It Came from Beneath the Sea* (Faith Domergue). 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30-7.00 Kick Off. 10.30 Week on Friday. 11.00 After All That, This. 11.30-1.30 am Film: Experiment in Terror* (Lee Remick).

Tyne Tees

As London except. Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. Lookaround. 2.45-4.15 Film. Cry of the Wild. 6.00 News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 10.30 News. 10.32 Film: Virgin Soldiers (Lynn Redgrave, Hywel Bennett). 12.30 am-12.35 Countryside Christian.

Westward

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Film: Rawhide* (Susan Hayward, Tyrone Power) -4.12-4.15 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 6.00-7.00 Westward Diary. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.32 News. 10.36 Soap. 11.05 SWAT. 12.00-12.05 am Faith for Life.

HTV

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Father Came Too* (James Robertson Justice). 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 Welcome Back Kotter. 7.30-8.30 Chips. 10.28 News. 10.35 Who Says We Can't? 11.05 Soap. 11.35-12.05 am Camera.

HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV west except: 9.35 am-9.50 Am Gymru. 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.45 Bywyd Mewn Fforest Boeth. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.35-11.05 Outlook.

Channel

As London except: 12.00-12.30 pm Closedown. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Rawhide* (Susan Hayward, Tyrone Power). 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Ladies First. 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.28 News. 10.36 Soap. 11.05-12.00 SWAT.

Grampian

As London except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film How to Break up a Happy Divorce* (Barbara Eden, Hal Linden). 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Police Story. 12.10 am Seachd Laithean. 12.25-12.30 News.

Scottish

As London except: 1.20-1.30 pm News. 2.45-4.15 Film: It Came From Beneath the Sea* (Faith Domergue). 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.25 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Here Here. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.30 Ways and Means. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 SWAT. 12.00-12.30 am Curling.

Yorkshire

As London except: 1.20-1.30 pm News. 2.45 Film: Brief Season (Christopher Jones). 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Sport. 7.30-8.30 Hawaii Five-O. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Snooker. 11.45-12.40 am Lou Grant.

Ulster

As London except: 1.20-1.30 pm Lunchtime. 2.45 Film. Clairvoyant (Claude Rains). 4.13-4.15 News. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.05 Benson. 11.35-11.45 Bedtime.

Border

As London except: 1.20-1.30 pm News. 2.45-4.15 Film Louis Armstrong Chicago Style (Ben Vereen). 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Out of Town. 10.30 Golf. 11.25-11.28 News.

Anglia

As London except: 1.20-1.30 pm News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film. Skullduggery (Burt Reynolds). 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 10.30 7 Days. 11.00 Soap. 11.30 Film Molly and Lawless John (Vera Miles, Sam Elliott). 1.15 am Chapter and Verse.

Entertainments Guide

ENTERTAINMENTS

CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office.
When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

COVENT GARDEN. 240 1066. 'S' (Gardencharge cc 836 6903) 65 amphiseats avail. for all perfs. from 10 am on the day of perf.
THE ROYAL BALLET
Ton't & Tomor at 7.30 Mayerling Mon., Wed. & Thurs. at 7.30 Manon (Penney replaces Seymour Mon. perf.) Tues. at 7.30 Daphnis & Chloë, My Brother, My Sisters, Façade.

COLISEUM 'S' 836 3161 cc 240 5258. Until April 4.
LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
Evgs. 7.30. Mat. Tomor & Mar. 28 at 2.30. April 4 at 4.00. Until Wed. next: COPELLIA. Ton't: Truglia, Johnson, Wells.

LOGAN HALL, Bedford Way, WC1 Sat. 21 March at 7.30 p.m. Concert performance of RENAUD by Sacchini BBC Concert Orchestra conductor: Richard Hickox Tues. 24 March at 7.30 p.m. Concert performance of MANON LESCAUT by Puccini, Chelsea Opera Chorus & Orchestra, conductor: Howard Williams. Tickets: £5, £4, £3, £2. Camden Box Office (396 7271).

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE. EC1. Tel. 01-837 1672/1673/3856. Credit Cards 10 am to 6 pm. 01-278 0871. Last two perfs.
BALLET RAMBERT
Evs. 7.30. Tonight & Tomor Cruel Garden. Tkts. £1 to £6. March 23 to 28: SINGERS COMPANY presents Offenbach's Operettas. Evs. at 7.30. Mon., Tue. & Fri. La Perichole. Wed., Thur. & Sat. next Orpheus in the Underworld. Tkts. £1 to £6.

THEATRES

ADELPHI S CC 01-836 7611 Evgs at 7.30. Sats. 4.0 & 7.45 Mats. Thursday at 3.0
TONY BRITTON
JILL MARTIN, PETER BAYLISS and ANNA NEAGLE in
MY FAIR LADY
"A MARVELLOUS SHOW"—Now! "SPECTACULAR"—D. Express. "STUNNING"—Time Out. Now booking through to Oct. For Group Bookings Telephone 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061

ALBERY—OMEGA SHOW GUIDE
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, EDUCATING RITA, TOMFOOLERY DUET FOR ONE, PAL JOEY
CREDIT CARD SALES 379 6565 from 9 a.m. all major cards. No bkg. fees. GROUP bkgs. 836 3962. STUDENT STANDBY £2.90.

ALBERY S 836 3878 cc bkgs 379 6565. Grp bkgs 379 6061, 836 3962. Eves 8. Thurs mat 3.00. Sat 5 & 8.15. "SIAN PHILLIPS 'A KNOCKOUT'" S. Times. DENIS LAWSON Most promising New Actor DRAMA AWARD 1980
MARVELLOUS MUSICAL
Sunday Times.
PAL JOEY
"TO BE SEEN AT ALL COSTS" (F.T.). RODGERS & HART'S GREATEST HIT (D. Mail).
GLITTERINGLY SLEAZY, SHEER THEATRICAL RAZZLE DAZZLE Std.

ALDWYCH 'S' 836 6404 cc 379 6233 (10-6, Sats. 10-4). Info. 836 5332.
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.00 & 7.30.
PASSION PLAY
by Peter Nichols.
'Sheer Magic' F. Times
'Superlative acting' S. Tel
'The laughter came thick and fast . . . an exciting start in the theatrical year' S. Times
Prestel booking 22023. Group Sales 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS S cc 836 1171 Eves 8 Tue 3. Sat 5 30 & 8.30.
J. B. PRIESTLEY'S
Mystery Play
DANGEROUS CORNER
"One of the cleverest plays ever written" Daily Telegraph.

APOLLO. CC 01-437 2663 DIANE LANGTON, BEN CROSS I'M GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER AND TAKING IT ON HE ROAD OPENING MARCH 31 at 7.0 Red. price prevs from March 26

ARTS 836 2132 Mons to Sats 8 p.m. £4, £3, £2. "Even if you're not au fait with G & S you'll soon be lapping up
TWISTED CUES
"I must recommend this good wholesome entertainment" Capital Radio. "A comic tour de force" D. Tel "Show bursting with health & strength" The Times. "Whole thing is good fun" F.T. Season must end April 11.

COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium — low price tkts): Last 2 perfs Ton't Tomor 7.30 THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN by Tom Taylor.

COMEDY THEATRE S cc 01-930 2578. Limited season until 23 May only. Evenings 7.15. Mat. Thurs. 3.00 (note early start). The National Theatre smash-hit production (from The Cottesloe) of ARTHUR MILLER'S
THE CRUCIBLE
Directed by Bill Bryden
"Thrilling production of a magnificent play" F. Times.

CRITERION S 930 3216 cc 379 6565. Grp Bkgs 836 3962 or 379 6061. Eves. 8. Sat. 6 & 8.45. Martin Connor, David Delve Tricia George, Peter Reeves deliver the songs and words of TOM LEHRER with huge polish and glee in
TOMFOOLERY
a satiric musical revue
"HILARIOUS, BARBED AND BUBBLY", S. Times.
"OUTRAGEOUS", Guardian.

DRURY LANE, Theatre Royal. Tel. 01-836 8108.
THE BEST LITTLE WHORE HOUSE IN TEXAS
"A SUCCESS? I SHOULD SAY SO". S. Times.
"BAWDY . . . LOTS OF FUN . . . A BRIGHT, BRASH AMERICAN MUSICAL". Sun.
"EXHILARATING". Times.
"VERY FUNNY INDEED . . . WILL RUN 150 YEARS". BBC Radio 4.
"A MARVELLOUS MUSICAL", Now mag.
Evgs. Mon. to Thur., 8.0. Fri / Sat. 5.30 / 8.30. Group Sales Box Office 379 6061.

DUCHESS cc 01-836 8243 Prevs. from March 25. Evgs. 8.0. Mats. Wed. 3.0. Saturday, 5.30 & 8.30.
OPENING APRIL 2 AT 7.0
FRANCIS MATTHEWS
GEORGE SEWELL
and LYNETTE DAVIES in
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER

DUKE OF YORKS S 836 5122. Credit Cards 379 6565/836 9837 839 4682 Group Bookings 836 3962, 379 6061 Evgs 8.00, Sats 5.0 & 8.30. Stalls & Circle from £2.90.
FRANCES DE LA TOUR
ACTRESS OF THE YEAR
Swet awards 80
BEST ACTRESS
New Standard Drama Awards 80
BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS
1980 DRAMA AWARDS
and DAVID DE KEYSER
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Drama Awards of the Year 1980
in TOM KEMPINSKI'S
DUET FOR ONE
BEST NEW PLAY
Drama Awards 1980
"THE AMAZING NEW PLAY" Daily Telegraph
"VERY STRONGLY RECOMMENDED" S. Times

GLOBE S cc 437 1592, 439 6770. SEASON ENDS MAY 16
Standing Room Tonight £1.50 & £2.
ROWAN ATKINSON IN REVUE
Evenings 8.0. Sats. 6 & 8.45.

GREENWICH THEATRE S cc 858 7755. Evenings at 8.0. Mat. Sats. 2.30. CONSTANCE CUMMINGS "Bewitching" Times. ANGELA THORNE "Magnetic performance" Gdn in The GOLDEN AGE. A new play by A. R. Gurney. "Considerable wit and finesse" S. Tel. "Graceful" Obs "Enjoyable play . . . a pleasing evening" S. Exp.

GARRICK S cc 01-836 4601 Evenings 8.0 until Saturday
MAX WALL

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301. MIKE LEIGH'S
GOOSE-PIMPLES
"A TERRIBLY FUNNY PLAY. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED" S. Tms. "A VICIOUS COMEDY THAT IS FUNNY EVEN WHEN IT HURTS" Std. Mon to Fri 8. Sat 4.30 & 8.

HAYMARKET Theatre Royal. CC 01-930 9832. Last weeks. season must end April 18. Book now. evgs at 8.0. MAGGIE SMITH "a great tragi-comic Actress in full bloom", Financial Times, in
VIRGINIA
"Beautifully crafted, highly emotional experience." D. Telegraph. A new play by Edna O'Brien from the lives and writings of Virginia & Leonard Woolf. Directed by Robin Phillips. Late-comers may not be admitted.

JEANNETTA COCHRANE 242-7040 Mar. 16-21 THEATRE OF MISTAKES. 1.15 & 8. Tkts. at door from £1.

KINGS HEAD 226 1916. Dnr 7. Show 8. UP IN THE 80's by Neville Phillips & Robb Stewart.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311. Eves 7.30. Sats 4.30 & 8.15. Joe Orton's ENTERTAINING MR. SLOANE. With David Blake Kelly, Glyn Grimstead, Dave King, Barbara Windsor. Dir: Kenneth Williams. LYRIC STUDIO: Eves 8.0 Hull Truck presents THE COCKROACH TRILOGY by Alan Williams. Dir: Mike Bradwell. Ton't: The Return of the Cockroach.

LYRIC S cc 01-437 3686. evgs. 8.0 Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.30, 8.30.
DINSDALE LANDEN
NICOLA PAGETT
in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
TAKING STEPS
"A VERY FUNNY EVENING. ENJOYED MYSELF ENORMOUSLY" Evening News
"THE BEST FARCE IN TOWN"—Punch.

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage): Last perfs Ton't 7.45 Tomor 3.00 & 7.45 THE BROWNING VERSION / HARLEQUINADE double-bill by Rattigan Ton't 6.00 Family Voices by Harold Pinter directed by Peter Hall with Peggy Ashcroft, Mark Dignam and Michael Kitchen. 45 min Platform perf all tkts £1.20.

MAYFAIR THEATRE (near Green Pk. Undgd.) 629 3036. Gp. Sales 379 6061. Opens Tues., 31 March, at 7 p.m. Eves. Mon.-Fri 8.00. Sats 5.15 & 8.15. Mats Wed. 3.30 THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS Juggling and Cheap Theatrics.

NATIONAL THEATRE S cc 928 2252. FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON / COTTESLOE. Excellent cheap seats from 10 am day of perf all 3 theatres. Also Standby 45 mins before start. NOTE NEW STARTING TIMES: OLIVIER & COTTESLOE. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (incl. backstage) £1.50. Info. 633 0880. NT also at COMEDY THEATRE.

NEW LONDON THEATRE c.c. Drury Lane, London, W.C.2. 01-405 0072. Opens April 30. Previews from April 22.
CATS
A MUSICAL BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER BASED ON OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS BY T. S. ELIOT.
CATS
Additional Box Office (at Normal Theatre Prices). The Ticket Centre (by Wyndham Theatre), St. Martin's Court, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2. 01-240 2150.
BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN!

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 'S' Last perfs Ton't & Tomor Eves at 7.30. Sat Mat at 2.00. John Kani & Winston Ntshona in WAITING FOR GODOT. From 31 Mar - 11 Apr. THE CENTAUR Company of Montreal in Fennario's BALCONVILLE.

OLIVIER (NT's open stage): Ton't Tomor.. 6.00 (note early start). MAN AND SUPERMAN (including "Don Juan in Hell") by Bernard Shaw.

PALACE. S cc 01-437 6834
"OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL EVENING!" Daily Mail.
Rodger's & Hammerstein's
OKLAHOMA!
"A MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE" S. Times.
Evenings 7.30. Mats. Wed. Sat. 3.00. For group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thur.

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373
OPENING JUNE 11
Reduced price previews from May 29.
MICHAEL CRAWFORD
In the Gigantic Broadway Musical
BARNUM
ADVANCE SALES OPEN NOW!
Use the Barnum hot lines 01-437 2055, 01-734 8961 for instant credit card reservations.

PALLADIUM. 01-437 7373.
LAST 3 DAYS
MUST END SATURDAY
Evgs. 7.30. Mat. Sat. 2.45.
JIM DAVIDSON, MOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in
DICK WHITTINGTON
"The audience, old and young, roared, screamed, yelled and laughed their approval" Fin Times. Book now. Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales box office 379 6061.
FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS April 14-19, 6 days only, including Good Fri. & Easter Sunday
ELLA FITZGERALD
OSCAR PETERSON
Opens April 28th—2 weeks only. THE LIBERACE SHOW '81 Starring "MR SHOWMANSHIP".
LIBERACE
with supporting company. Box office now open. Credit cards accepted.

PHOENIX c.c. 01-836 2294/5. Credit Card Bookings 01-836 8611.
THAT'S SHOWBIZ!
"Variety is back in the West End" D. Mail. "Terrific" F. Times. "Show Stopping" Times. "That's Magic" S. Tel. Prices: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50. Wed. to Sat. TWICE NIGHTLY. 6.0 & 8.30 DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND EXTRA PERF. SUNDAYS AT 7.30.

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 cc 379 6565. Group Bkgs 836 3962/379 6061. Mon.-Fri. 8. Mat. Wed. 3. Sat. 6 & 8.40 (perf 2hr 10min length). Stalls from £2.90
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO.
in Willy Russell's hit comedy
EDUCATING RITA
COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1980
"SPLENDID THEATRE EVENING QUITE ASTOUNDING"—Time Out.
"A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS . . . IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED AND EXHILARATED", S. Tms.
RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 930 8681. Credit Card bookings 930 0846.
PAUL DANIELS in IT'S MAGIC
"TRIUMPH" Fin. Times. "A WINNER" Variety. "PURE MAGIC" Sun. Mirror. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0 Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. Easter perfs.: Good Friday as normal. EXTRA MATS 20th & 21st APRIL AT 3.0.

PRINCE EDWARD. S cc Box Off. 437 6877. cc Hotline 439 8499. Grp. sales 379 6061. Eves 8.0 Mat. Thur. (Economy price) & Sat. 3.0.
EVITA
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

QUEENS S cc 01-734 1166 01-439 3849 01-439 4031.
PENELOPE KEITH
Peter JEFFREY Barbara FERRIS
MOVING
A new play by Stanley Price
Directed by Robert Chetwyn
Evenings 8.0. Mat. Wed. 3.0. Sat. 5.0 & 8.15. Grp sales 379 6061
"STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART . . . A FUNNY AND MOVING STORY OF SELLING A HOUSE" Daily Mail.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7, 9, 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts! New Girls! New Thrills! 23rd sensational year! Fully air conditioned.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564. ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE COMPANY. THE DUCHESS OF MALFI with Helen Mirren, Mike Gwilym, Julian Curry, Peter Postlethwaite and Bob Hoskins. 1 April-9 May. HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO DECLARE? a farce with Brian Cox, Dilys Hamlett, John Phillips & Derek Griffiths, Susan Littler. 13 May-J June. WAITING FOR GODOT with Max Wall and Trevor Peacock. June 9-27. THE MISANTHROPE with Tom Courtenay. 1 July-1 August. Season Ticket available.

ROYAL COURT S CC 730 1745. FAITH HEALER by Brian Friel HELEN MIRREN, STEPHEN LEWIS, TONY ROHR. Last perfs. Ton't & Tomor. 8. No latecomers.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS. 730 2554. THE 1987 LEWIS, TONY ROHR. Last perfs Ton't & Tomor 8. No latecomers.

ST. MARTIN'S. cc 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Tue. 2.45. Sats 5 & 8.
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
29th YEAR

STRAND cc 01-836 2660. 01-836 4143. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. 3.0 Sats. 5.30 & 8.30.
NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
Group sales box office 379 6061. Mons-Sats 8pm.

SHAFTESBURY, cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Box Office 836 6596 or 836 4255. Credit card bkgs. 839 7516, 839 4682, 839 4855 (9.30-6.0, Sat 9.30-4.30). Group Bookings Only, 01-839 3092.
TOM CONTI & GEMMA CRAVEN
THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG
"This show is a real stunner. Two of the most engaging performances". D. Mail. Prices: Stalls, Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00, Circle £3.50, £2.50. O.A.P's £4.00 (Wed Mats only, best seats), Student standby £4.00. Evgs 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0. Sats 5.0 & 8.30.

TRICYCLE THEATRE, 269 Kilburn High Rd., NW6. 328 8626. Mons. to Sats. 8 p.m. Monstrous Regiment presents the London Premiere of "MOURNING PICTURES" by Honor Moore.

VAUDEVILLE S cc 836 9988 Monday-Friday Evenings. 7.45 Mats. Wed. 2.45. Sats. 4.0, 7.45
DONALD SINDEN
DINAH SHERIDAN
GWEN WATFORD
POLLY ADAMS in
PRESENT LAUGHTER
"The best of Noel Cowards' plays" F. Times. "Donald Sinden—hugely funny" D. Tel. "Wicked and witty" D. Mail. "A total success" F. Times "A wonderful production of a genuinely hilarious play" LBC. "Terrific" S. Times. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30. Wednesday & Saturday 2.45. Group Sales 01-379 6061.
ANNIE
"UNBEATABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT" Observer.

WAREHOUSE. Donmar Theatre, Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office: 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't, Tomor., 7.30, TELEVISION TIMES by Peter Prince. "Funny and constantly diverting . . . carried through with splendid attack".—TLS. All seats £3.50, Students £2.00 in advance. SILVER STREAK (A) 11.00 p.m.

WESTMINSTER S CC 01-834 0283 Matinees only. Monday-Friday 2.15, Sats. 3.0 until March 28.
THE NAMESAKE
A NEW PLAY ABOUT KING ALFRED AND THE VIKINGS.

WINDMILL THEATRE. cc 01-437 6312. Twice nightly. Mon-Sat. 7 & 9 p.m. Sun 6 & 8 p.m. PAUL RAYMOND presents RIP OFF. Hotter than ever for 1981. The erotic experience of the modern era. 5th Great Year.

WYNDHAM'S. S 836 3028. cc 379 6565. Red. price. Gps 836 3962. Mon-Fri 8.00. Sat 6 & 8.45.
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST
"Exactly the shot in the arm that the West End needed" S Times. "One of the funniest shows London has seen in a very long time" Punch. "Hilarious" D Tel.

YOUNG VIC. 928 6363. Eves. 7.30. Ton't ROSENCRANTZ. Sat. Mon. Wed. RICHARD II. "politically pertinent as ever" —The Times. Tue. PYGMALION.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051 Air conditioning. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT From 8.00. Dining & Dancing
RITA MORENO AND COMPANY
preceded at 9.30 by Super Revue "BUBBLY"
DANCING UNTIL 1 a.m.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. 6th month Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (A) perfs. 1.00 (not Sun), 4.10, 7.40.
ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Andrei Tarkovsky's haunting new film STALKER (A). Progs. 1.50 (not Sun.), 4.50, 8.00.

ACADEMY 3 437 8819. Ira Wohl's Academy Award winning film BEST BOY (U). Progs. 5.00, 7.00, 9.00 daily.

CAMDEN PLAZA, Camden Town 485 2443 (opp Tube) ISABELLE HUPPERT in Maurice Pialat's LOULOU (X) 2.35, 4.40, 6.45, 9.00.

CLASSIC 1 CHELSEA, King's Road. 352 5096. Isabelle Huppert in Pialat's LOULOU (X) progs 2.30, 5.30, 8.20. Last perf bookable.

COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave (734 5414). A John Cassavetes Film GLORIA (AA). Cont. progs. Dly 1.30 (not Sun) 3.45, 6.00, 8.20.

CURZON, Curzon St., W.1. 499 3737 BURT LANCASTER, SUSAN SARANDON in LOUIS MALLE'S ATLANTIC CITY (AA). Film at 2.0 (not Sun), 4.05, 6.20, 8.40. "I like this film intensely" Alexander Walker New Standard.

DOMINION. Tott. Court Rd. (580 9562) BEING THERE (AA)/THE SECRET POLICEMAN'S BALL (AA). Cont. Progs. Wks. 2.45, 6.45. Sun. 3.55, 6.10.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. Seats bookable for the last evening performance only. Advance box office open from 11 am to 7 pm (not Suns). Credit card telephone bookings ring Teledata 200 0200. Albert Finney, Martin Sheen LOOPHOLE (A). Mon-Sat: Sept progs. 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Sunday: 6.00, 8.30. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15. STARTING APRIL 9 "TESS" (A). A Roman Polanski Film. Nominated for 6 Oscars including "Best Picture". ADVANCE BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN! Now RITZ. Leicester Square THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY (X). Sep progs daily 12.30, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15 p.m.

GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill. 221 0220/727 5750. RAGING BULL (X) 1.35, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50. UP IN SMOKE (X) & PLAY IT AGAIN SAM (A) 11.15 pm.

GATE TWO CINEMA. 837 8402/1177. Russ Sq Tube. BLOOD OF HUSSAIN (AA) 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. TAXI DRIVER (X) & REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (X) 11.00 pm. Lic'd Bar.

GATE THREE CINEMA. 267 1201/485 2446. Camden Twn Tube. THE GREAT SANTINI (A) 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.05. AN UNMARRIED WOMAN (X) & SILVER STREAK (A) 11.00pm. Lic'd Bar.

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL, Stratton St. Green Pk. Tb. KAGEMUSHA (A) 5.30, 8.20.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). THE SPECIAL EDITION: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (A). Sep progs. Mon-Sat 2.10, 5.15, 8.20. Sun. 3.30, 7.30. Late night show Sat. DRESSED TO KILL (X) 11.45 p.m. Seats Bookable w'ends & Last Eve. Prog. & Late Shows.

MINEMA, 45 Knightsbridge. 235 4225/6. Exclusive presentation of "MY BRILLIANT CAREER" (U). (New Print.) Daily 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Extra. Perf. Fri. & Sat. 11.00. BAFTA Nominations: Judy Davis Best Actress for "My Brilliant Career".

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738/2771) ALIEN (X) IS BACK! in 70mm and Stereo sound. Sep. progs. 1.45, 4.50, 8.00. Sun. 4.20, 7.45.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton NINE TO FIVE (AA). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open wks. 1.15, 4.20, 7.30, Sun. 3.00, 7.30. Late night show Fri. & Sat. Drs. open 11.15.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH, W.2 (723 2011/2). THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U). Sep Progs. Drs Open Daily 2.30, 6.45.

ODEON, ST. MARTIN'S LANE. THE ELEPHANT MAN (AA). For info. 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep progs. wks. 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. Sun. 5.15, 8.15.

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4, off Piccadilly Circus 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as EMPIRE, Leicester Square.

● ●1. ORDINARY PEOPLE (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.40. Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 pm.
● ●2. COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.40. Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 pm.
● 3. MONTY PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.35. Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 pm.
● 4. AIRPLANE (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 pm.
● ● NO SMOKING AREA
● NO SMOKING

PRINCE CHARLES. Leic. Sq. 437 8181. British Premier Presentation CALIGULA (X). Sep Perfs Dly (inc Sun) 2.15, 5.30, 8.45. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.55. Seats bkble. Lic'd bar.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366 Robert de Niro. RAGING BULL (X). Film showing at 1.45, 4.10, 6.40, 9.10. Ring 435 9787 after 7 p.m. for phone bookings.

EXHIBITIONS

FISCHER FINE ART, 30 King St., St. James's, S.W.1. 839 3942. JACK SMITH—Recent Paintings Until 16 April. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30 : Sats 10-12.30.

52nd CHELSEA ANTIQUES FAIR. Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Rd. SW3. Your last chance to visit the Fair. Open today and tomorrow 11 am-7.30 pm. Adm £1.50 inc. Catalogue & VAT.

THE WARWICK ARTS TRUST, 33 Warwick Sq. St Georges Drive. SW1. 834 7856. Fresco in London 1981. Furniture, textiles, glass by British designers—craftsmen. March 17-April 10 daily 10-5 pm.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY d'OFFAY. 9 & 23 Dering St., W.1. David Bomberg/Rainer Fetting 01-629 1578.

BRITISH LIBRARY (in Brit. Museum). George Eliot until 26 April. Tudor Map Making until 31 Dec. Wkdys. 10-5, Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St., 734 7984. DODY STRAUSER & JENNY GREVATTE.

HAYWARD GALLERY (Arts Council). South Bank, London SE1. EDWARD HOPPER and WILLIAM JOHNSTONE. Till March 29. Wkdays. 10-6. Sun. 12-6. Adm. £1.50. All day Mon. 75p.

HAZLITT, GOODEN & FOX, 38 Bury Street, St James's, SW1. 01-930 6422 Henri Edmond Cross. 24 early Drawings from the Collection of Felix Fénéon, Monday to Friday, 10-5.30, until March 27.

LEFEVRE GALLERY: 30 Bruton St., W.1. 01-493 1572 3. Twentieth Century Works on View. Mon-Fri. 10-5.

MARLBOROUGH
6 Albemarle St. W1. Drawings & Watercolours by 15 British Artists Mon-Fri. 10-5.30. Sat 10-12.30.

MILTON AVERY "Figures from the Forties". Ten major paintings. Thomas Gibson Fine Art. 9a New Bond Street, W1. 01-499 8572. Weekdays 10am-5pm.

DRIAN GALLERIES, 7 Porchester Place, W2. 723 9473. Stanislaw Frenkiel till 28th March. Daily 10-5. Sat. 10-1.

REDFERN GALLERY
DAVID EVANS
Watercolours 1980
March 3rd - 25th
20 Cork Street, London, W1
Mon-Fri 10-5.30 Sats 10-12.30

THE COTTAGE GALLERY, 9 Hereford Rd., W.2. 01-221 4378. LEONARD BASKIN, graphics, drawings, sculptures. Tues.-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 11-5.

Classified Guide

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LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. Isaiah 26. 12.

BIRTHS

BOOKER.—On 18th March at R.U.H., Bath, to Valerie (nee Patrick) and Christopher—a son (Alexander), brother for Nicholas.

GARNER.—On March 19th, to Sally and Peter—a daughter.

CAVANA.—On 17th March, 1981, at the Bradford Royal Infirmary, to Carolyn and Robert—another lovely daughter (Elizabeth Kathleen), a sister for Emily.

CRAWFORD.—On 18th March, at University College Hospital, London, to Sophia (nee Macindoe) and Frederik—a son (David Frederik).

EVANS.—On March 15th, to Bernadette (nee Boulle) and Christopher—a son (Benedict).

HOLMES.—On March 18th, 1981, at City Maternity Hospital, Carlisle, to Kitty (nee Nicholson) and Boyd—a daughter (Alice Sarah).

JUCKES.—On 10th March in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Barbara and Richard—a daughter (Alexandra Karoline), a sister for Victoria.

McBRIDE.—On Friday, the thirteenth of March, at St. Teresa's, Wimbledon, to Jill and Barrie—a son (Alastair Lazareff Barrie St. Clair), brother for Alexandra.

MORRISON.—On March 11th, in New York, to Anne and Murdoch—a daughter.

MURRAY.—On March 16 to Bernadette (nee Francisco) and Simon—a daughter (Jeannine Bernadette).

STAGG.—On 18th March, to Wendy and Michael—a daughter (Camilla Hannah Catherine), a sister for Dominic and Clare.

STEWART-BROWN.—On March 17th to Luisa and David (nee Pimenta-Da-Gama)—a daughter (Charlotte Luisa).

SURTEES.—On March 17th in New York, to Pamela (nee Huberman) and William—a son.

TAYLOR.—On 18th March, to Judith (nee Allen) and Paul (in Holland)—a son (Alexander ...

DEATHS

KENYON.—On March 18th, Katherine Mary ..., of The Drove, Twyford, Hampshire, aged 93 years, eldest daughter of the late Maj. Gen. and Mrs. E. R. Kenyon. Cremation private. Memorial service at St. Mary's, Twyford, on Saturday, March 28th, at 12 noon. Interment service at Pr...adoc Church on a date to be announced later.

KING.—On March 18th, in Ottawa, Canada, after a short illness accepted with great courage, Captain Stanley MacKenzie King, Canadian Navy, beloved husband of Elisabeth and loving father of Susan, Gill, Penny and Sandy of 34 Pentland Crescent, Kanata, Ontario K1, K2 V6. Son-in-law to Major General Nicholl Williams, C.B.E., Royal Marines.

LEUCHARS.—On March 19th peacefully in her 95th year, Gwendoline Evelyn, widow of William Wood Leuchars. Formerly living with her daughter, Helen Gibbs, Mercer's Cottage, Cranleigh. Funeral St Nicolas, Cranleigh Parish Church, Tuesday, March 24th, 2.15pm. Family flowers only, please.

MARTIN.—On March 18th, 1981, peacefully, at home, Sidney Day, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service on Tuesday, March 24th, at 2.30 pm, at the Parish Church, Sidmouth, followed by cremation at Exeter. No flowers, donations to The Elmé Society, Queen Victoria Street, London.

MILL.—At an Edinburgh nursing home on March 16, 1981, Anna Jean (Professor Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts), formerly of 9 Ravelston Garden, Edinburgh. Funeral private at her own request.

MURPHY.—On March 14th, at Roehampton Hospital, Paul Longhurst Murphy, of Richmond, Surrey. Funeral 2 p.m., Thursday, 26th March, at St. Elizabeth Church, The Vineyard, Richmond.

NORTON.—On 18th March, very peacefully, in London, Fred, aged ... "Murmur farewell to a heartbroken cricketer ...

...

CHAPMAN.—On Sunday, 15th March, at Chertsey, Mrs Rose (Mollie), of 22 St Claire's Orchard, Somerton, Somerset. Cremation at South-West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth, near Twickenham, Tuesday, 24th March, at 1 pm. Details from Chesham 72221.

CONSTAD.—On March 19th, 1981, peacefully, in Somerset, Nancy, widow of Dr Victor Constad. Dearest mother of Sue and Jennifer, beloved grandmother of Julia, Claire, Daniel, Edward, Harriet and Lucille. Much loved sister of Trevor, Peggy and Beryl. Cremation, Monday 23rd at Taunton Crematorium. Enquiries to H. W. Back and Son Ltd, Old Vicarage Lane, Bishop's Lydeard, near Taunton, Somerset.

CUSTIS.—On 18th March, peacefully in her home in Thornton Heath, Surrey, Amy Louise, in her 91st year, widow of the late Alfred Custis, of Rathfarnham, Dublin. Cremation at Croydon crematorium on Tuesday, 24th of March, at 10 a.m. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Dr. Barnardo's, Barkingside, Essex.

GAYLER.—On March 14, 1981, suddenly at home, Peter Vivian, beloved husband of Eleanor, father of Anthony, Vivienne and Rosanna and much loved grandfather. For many years chairman of the Gayfreight group of companies and Lloyds Packing Warehouses Ltd. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues. The funeral service will be on Wednesday, March 25, at All Saints Church, Beulah Hill, SE19, at 2.30 p.m. The burial will be at West Norwood Cemetery following the service. Flowers to 68 Beulah Hill, SE19 or donations if desired to Cancer Research.

GRAY.—On March 17th, 1981, at the Royal Free Hospital, after a long illness, Nicholas Stuart Gray. Funeral private. Donations if wished to the World Wildlife Fund, 29 Greville Street, EC1.

HARRISON, RICHARD STANLEY ERNEST, aged 16.—On March 18th, after an accident. Beloved son of Pamela and David, brother of Catherine and Rowan, of Great Missenden. Funeral service on March 23rd at 11 a.m. at St. Edward's School, Oxford, followed by private burial. Donations if desired to British Diabetic Association or Cancer Research, c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd., 81 Edgware Road, London. Cut flowers if preferred.

PETTMAN.—A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Pettman will take place at Tonbridge School Chapel on Thursday, April 2nd at 2 pm., by kind permission of the Headmaster.

PUGH.—A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Major General L. O. Pugh, CB, CBE, DSO, will be held in Hereford Cathedral on Wednesday, 8th April, at 11.45 am.

IN MEMORIAM

AKED, HENRY LESLIE CAUTLEY. March 20th, 1962. So very dearly loved husband of Cynthia and father of Roger, Antonia and Virginia.

BRAHAM, ISOBEL. In ever loving memory of my mother, who died 20th March, 1975.—Alfred.

DOUBLE, A. T. J. (John). March 20th, 1968. Treasured memories so greatly missed. Anne and Patricia.

GERVERS.—Remembering gratefully darling Dinks, so loved and missed by all who knew her.

LATHAM, DR. JOHN EDGAR, surgeon, Union-Castle Line, 20th March, 1978. Lovingly remembered by his friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREEK TYPIST. Freelance. See Secretarial Vacancies.

IQ test/membership details from Mensa (B), FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR. Tel.: 0902 26055.

COOK required. Marble Arch area.—See Domestic Sits. today.

SECRETARY required in Mayfair. £6,500. See La Creme.

TAKE your phone fishing? Phonemate will tell you how. 01-431 0266/0257.

DREAM 17th Century Cottage.—See Country Property.

SIR PETER SCOTT and Gordon Beningfield to aid butterfly conservation will each autograph special First Day Covers, bearing May 1981 British Butterfly stamp issue. Autographed covers £5.20. Orders to/details from: Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester, GL2 7BT.

ADMINISTRATOR required for Central London solicitors.—See La Creme.

IMPECUNIOUS Scout Group require cheap but reliable replacement for their missing mini bus. 01-863 4583.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,479

ACROSS

1 Top decoration's worn by brass hat at breakfast? (9, 4).
9 Backing objective with gold—sign of change (9).
10 For part of Ireland soil analysis holds key (5).
11 Hold and use a part of Kent, say (5).
12 Upstart god returns to the mountains (4).
13 Party man a Stock Exchange speculator (4).
15 Landed from the sea (7).
17 Dash away for The Listener—swell cover (4, 3).
18 Terrible golf? A member makes light of it (3-4).
20 Sturdy stem (7).
21 Toast here is not necessarily ruined (4).
22 Light its solution? (4).
23 Commits to paper sound forms of procedure (5).
26 Mark the double-cross (5).
27 Conductor of opera gets point in one (9).
28 Laconic form of Ted's hot answer (5, 3, 5).

DOWN

1 Robin's arboreal habitat (8, 6).
2 This way over the Berkshire Downs (5).
3 As a southerner I remain old-fashioned (10).
4 Attraction about end of work-time is this (7).
5 Track about right for two-wheeler (7).
6 Navy's extra cut (4).
7 Play made in France, I hear (5, 4).
8 Hood's tribute to the "Cutty Sark"? (4, 2, 3, 5).
14 Snakes were legendary tree-dwellers (10).
16 To swindle USA Gas Company I must be shrewd (9).
19 Garment of light kid (7).
20 Measures concerning issue of a previous alliance (7).
24 Broken Petri dish (5).
25 Set sights on producing a cipher (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,478

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 20

UK HOLIDAYS

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Tenerife	From	£130	Return
Rimini	From	£86	Return
Venice	From	£83	Return

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ATHENS. Hotel B/B from £123.

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MOROCCO/GREECE 18-30 Hols 2 wk	10 May onwards	99	Young World	0273 2339
HAWAII/Apts/Hotel 2 wk	Apr-Nov	498	Just California & Beyond	07535 5615
CALIFORNIA/Fly-Drive 1, 2, 3 wk	Apr/Jun	325	Just California & Beyond	07535 5615
CRETE/Villas/Apts 2 wks for 1	Apr/May	176	Just Crete	07535 5651
ALMERIA/H/B or flight 1-2 wk	Apr/May	78	Lanzotic Travel	02934 7383

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AIR CHARTERS EUROPE, 108 Brompton Road, SW7. 01-581 3352/1898. ATOL 588. Access/Barclaycard welcomed

SKI EASTER. Argentiere.—Chamonix, April 11th-20th. Chalet for 11. £229 p.p. Also few places March 21. 1 week.—01-839 4131/01-930 6274.

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EUROPEAN FLIGHTS.—Visa Travel. 01-543 4327. Air Agts.

EUROPE—EUROPE—EUROPE Jet Air Agts. 01-379 7506/7829.

CORSICA-PORTE VECCHIO. Villas near beach. May, June, Sept. TEDESCHI, 31 av. d'Eylau, 75116 PARIS—Tel. 727 68 59.

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GREEK ISLAND HOLIDAYS.—Limited avail. for Easter in Kos from £140.—Twelve Islands. Romford 68918 (ATOL 1464).

EASTER IN THE ALGARVE.—Still 1 or 2 luxury villas with private pools and staff available in the Algarve over the Easter holidays. The best villas, the cleanest beaches, the warmest sun and the best seafood in Europe. From £179 p.p., incl. flight.—Call ITP Villa, 01-584 6211 (ATOL 1344 ABTA).

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